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PLAYBOY'S Wrestling Superstar

RENA MERO:

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PLAYBOY'S Wrestling SUPERSTAR

PLAYBOY PRESS

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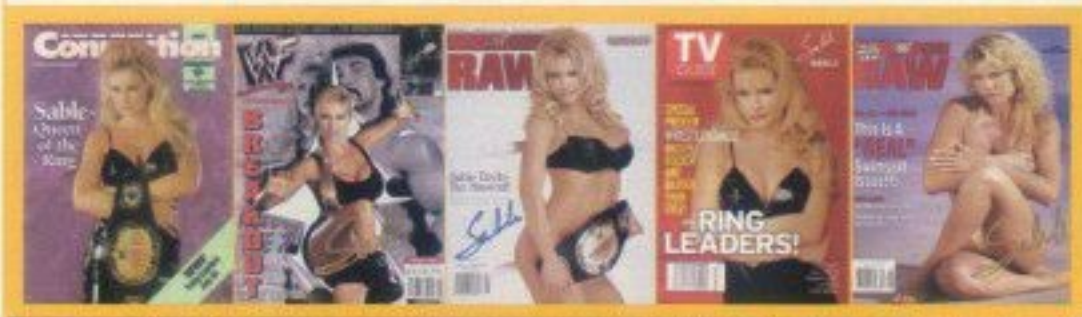


THE REAL RENA

THE COMPLETE STORY OF THE SEXIEST WRESTLER THE WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

Her brutal patented Sable Bomb blew the doors off pro wrestling. Her taut, sexy PLAYBOY pictorials set sales records and were a national sensation. Now a bona fide American sex symbol for the new millennium, she has put wrestling behind her and has embarked on what many insiders feel will be a stellar action-packed acting career. And don't forget the plush new house with the horses, tennis court and the swimming pool. Yeah, things couldn't get much better for Rena Mero, the fiery former world champion pro wrestler whose street-brawling Sable-icious style packed arenas around the world.

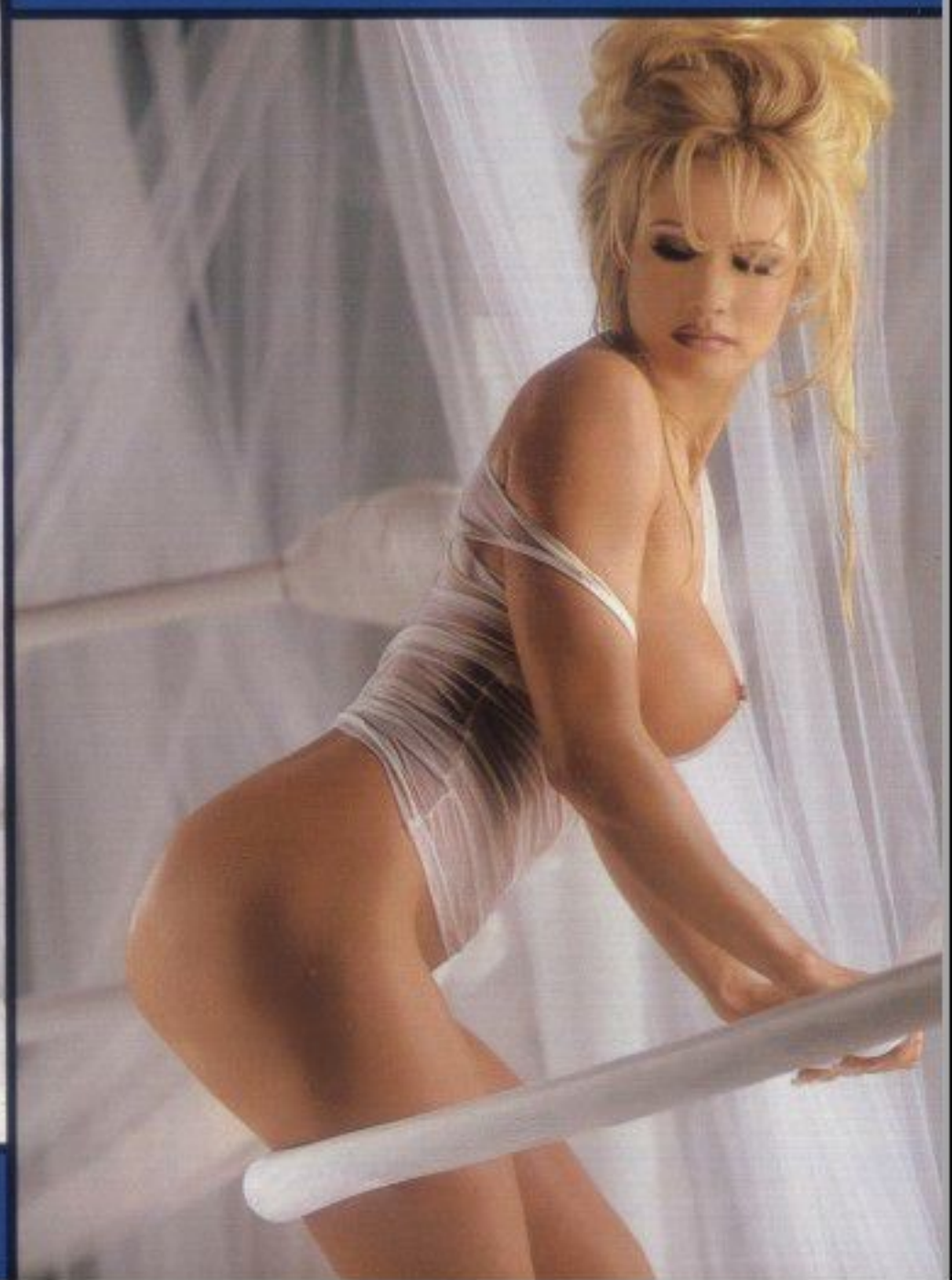
But things haven't always looked this bright for the sexy native Floridian. Several times in Rena's life she's been slammed to the canvas, but every time she's gotten up fighting. Rena Greek, the second of four children, was born in Jacksonville on August 8, 1968. Her mother was a real estate agent and her dad a construction worker. Sometimes they just barely got by. "I grew up in a very poor family," recalls Rena. "It

was very difficult to make ends meet and we almost always went without things we wanted, and sometimes we went without things we needed. But growing up like that helped build character and it certainly gave me a desire and a drive to want to provide better things for my family."

In high school Rena competed in beauty contests and played on a city league softball team that went to the national tournament. But when she was in the tenth grade, things went sour on the home front and she dropped out of school. "My mother was going through a divorce and things were not real pleasant at home," she remembers. "So I quit school when I was 16, moved out and got my own place."

The next period of her life is a time Rena rarely discusses. When she was 19 she got married and a year later had a beautiful daughter named Mariah. But at 23 tragedy struck when her husband was killed in an auto accident. "It's a part of my life I usually don't mention at all," she says in a whisper.

At the time of the accident, Rena had been modeling for several years and had posed in ads for Guess jeans, Bongo, Pepsi and L'Oreal. While still living in Jacksonville she was



out for dinner with friends one night when a hunk of a man walked into the restaurant. It was Marc Mero, who at the time was fighting for World Championship Wrestling as the extremely popular Johnny B. Bad.

When Marc saw Rena, he scribbled a note on a napkin and asked the waitress to give it to her. "The note was very cute," says Rena. "It said, 'Do you like me, yes or no?' And it had two little boxes and said, 'Check one.' So I waited about 20 minutes and then I drew my own box that said 'maybe,' checked that and sent it back."

That "maybe" would evolve into an emphatic yes. When Rena relocated to Atlanta, where Marc was based, the two fell in love and soon got married. Even though she was wed to a popular pro wrestler, Rena had no intention of entering the ring herself. But when Marc switched to the World Wrestling Federation in 1996 Rena was asked to join the show. She made her debut at Wrestlemania 13 as an escort, and later played the role of Marc's manager.

Sable, as she was known in the ring, quickly became a huge star in her own right. One night when she was attacked

by another woman during a match, the crowd went nuts. "The reaction was tremendous," she says. "The fans wanted to see women go at each other, so the WWF brought back the women's division."

Soon Rena as Sable was WWF women's world champ and the biggest thing to hit pro wrestling since the atomic elbow. Her signature Sable Bomb blew away the fans and her street-brawling style was a smash hit. She says the screaming fans and the adulation were a total gas. "It was very exhilarating, almost intoxicating. It's very seductive to have that many people screaming your name and cheering for you. In the beginning, it was very overwhelming, but you get used to it and you want it more and more."

As Rena's star rose, PLAYBOY came calling. She was extremely nervous about posing nude, but she also knew what a PLAYBOY

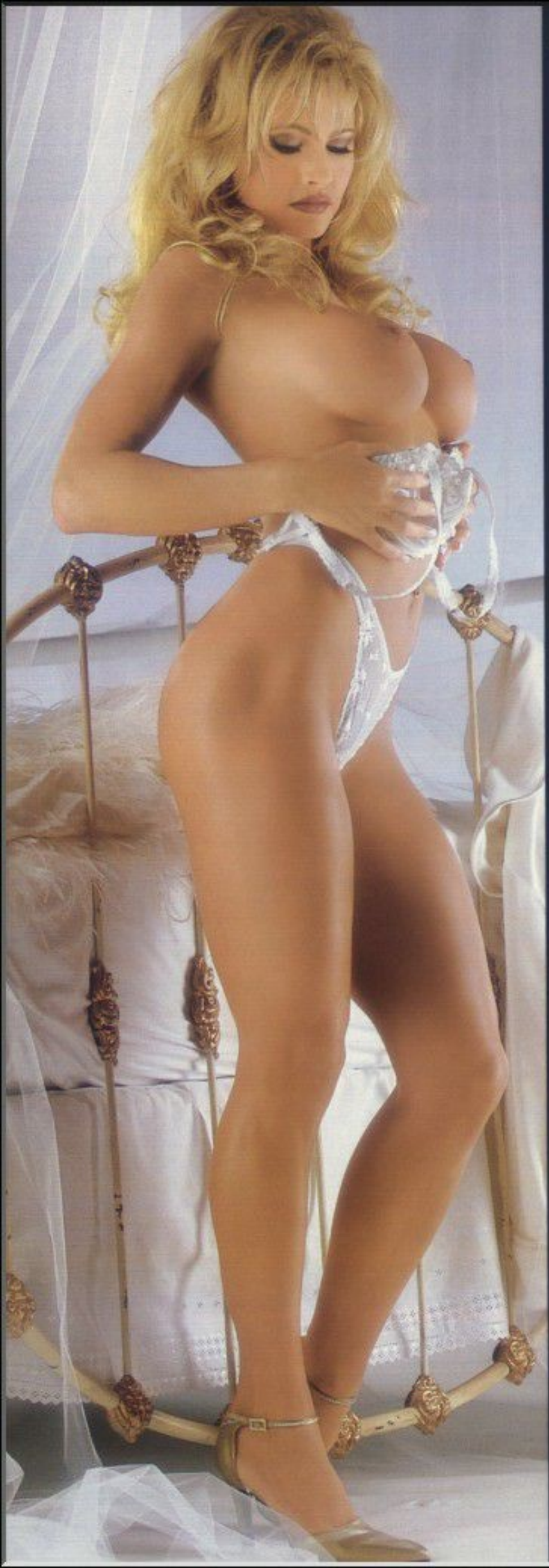
pictorial could do for her career. When the day for the shoot came, she decided to put her inhibitions aside and just go for it. "I had been a professional model for six years, but this was the most liberating, fun and exciting experience for me. It was the best shoot I'd ever been on, and I was totally nude."

Rena made the cover of PLAYBOY and the issue flew off the newsstands, setting sales records. Even though everything seemed to be looking up, wrestling was about to take her down. In June '99 she filed a $110-million lawsuit against the WWF alleging sexual harassment, unsafe working conditions and abuse of steroids. She says it got so bad after she objected to some of the WWF's alleged practices that some of her personal things were smeared with feces. At the time, she told *TV Guide* that wrestling had become "so obscene and vulgar that I do not wish to participate in it." *continued on pg.12*

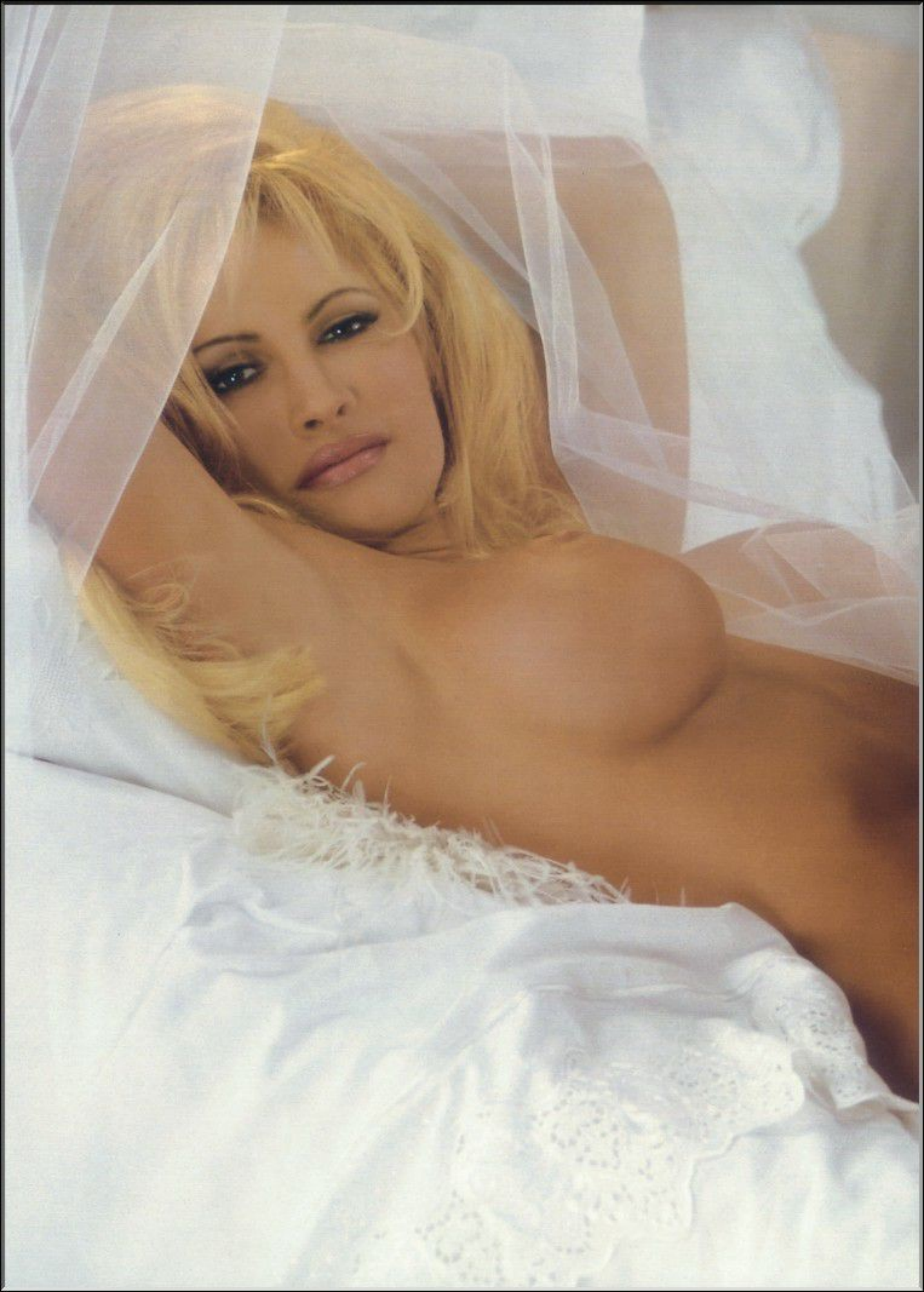
Recently, Rena settled her suit with the WWF. Neither party is allowed to discuss the details, but Rena says she is happy with the settlement and she's delighted to get on with her life. Which is exactly what she's doing. She was on the cover of PLAYBOY again last September, and it seems like every day she receives another film or TV script to consider. Rena has been offered the lead roles in both the *Red Sonja* and *Heavy Metal* TV series, she's in negotiations with Gene Simmons of KISS to act in both film and TV projects, and she's been offered guest spots on everything from *Walker Texas Ranger* to *V.I.P.* In January, she begins shooting an action/adventure sci-fi flick called *Doppelganger*. The film takes place in the year 2025, and in it she plays both a housewife and her evil clone. "The plot is really wild," says Rena, "and it's cool that I get to play two very different characters in my first feature film."

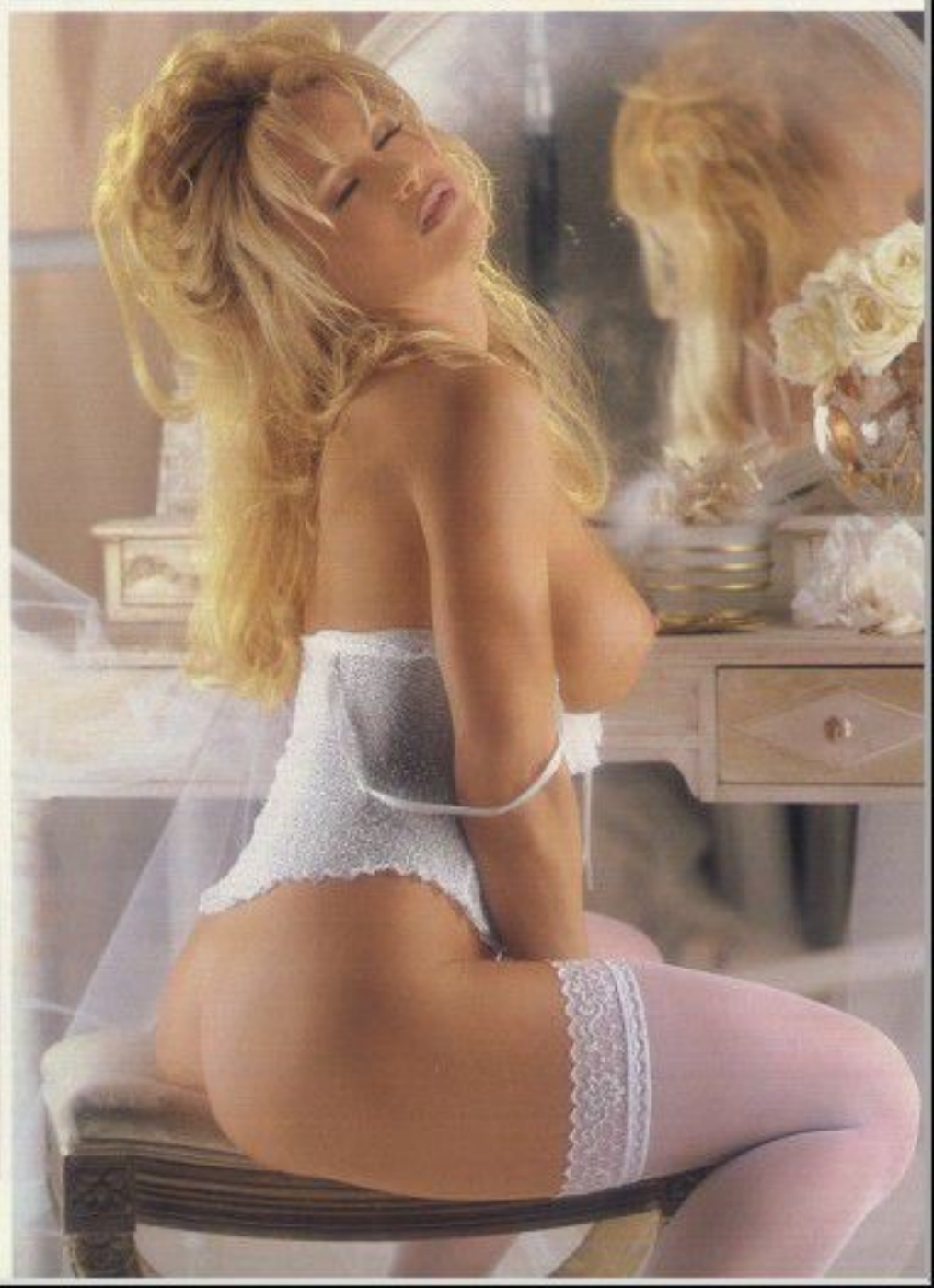
Because of the lawsuit with the WWF, Rena lost her right to the name Sable. But that isn't slowing her down one bit. "I didn't want to go through life with that name anyway," she says boldly. "My name is Rena and now people know that."

Remembering Rena's name is not going to be a problem. PLAYBOY crowned her the first Sex Star of the New Millennium, and it's a total no brainer that she'll have a stranglehold on Hollywood as the 21st century dawns. In the ring she kicked ass and became an icon to millions. And when this sultry sex bomb detonates on TV and movie screens around the world, the impact will be devastating. Get ready for Rena—the baddest, boldest and most beautiful sex symbol on the planet.



Sable





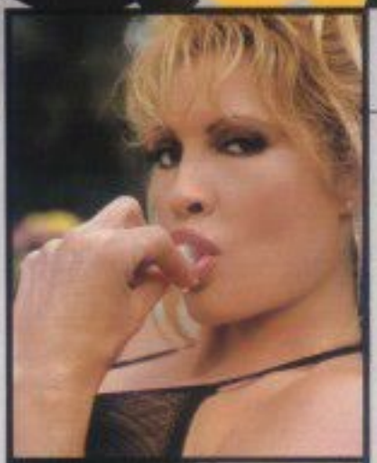
Lena Muro

Luma Muro

June

Q&A

OUTSIDE THE RING WITH RENA



Rena Mero is about as busy as you would expect a rising sexy superstar to be—reading film scripts, considering TV series, jetting around making public appearances for Playboy. We caught up with Rena at her swanky new home in central Florida during a break in her frantic schedule. Lounging by her pool in a barely there teeny-weeny string bikini, the bodacious former wrestling icon chatted with Playboy about everything from hanging out with Hef to a return to the ring as a boxer to which wrestling moves she favors in the bedroom.

Q: What's the biggest misconception about pro wrestling?

A: Duh, that it's real [*laughing*]. And that the wrestlers really are their characters in real life. But don't get me wrong, without a doubt you have to be extremely athletic and talented to participate in wrestling because it's live and you only get one shot at it. I would compare it to performing on Broadway in front of a live audience.

Q: What was your most exciting moment as a wrestler?

A: Most certainly in 1997 when I won Miss Slammy, the award for the most popular female in the business. It was a call-in vote by the fans. That was my first recognition of how much the fans enjoyed what I was doing.

Q: Did you get strange reactions about your decision to enter the ring?

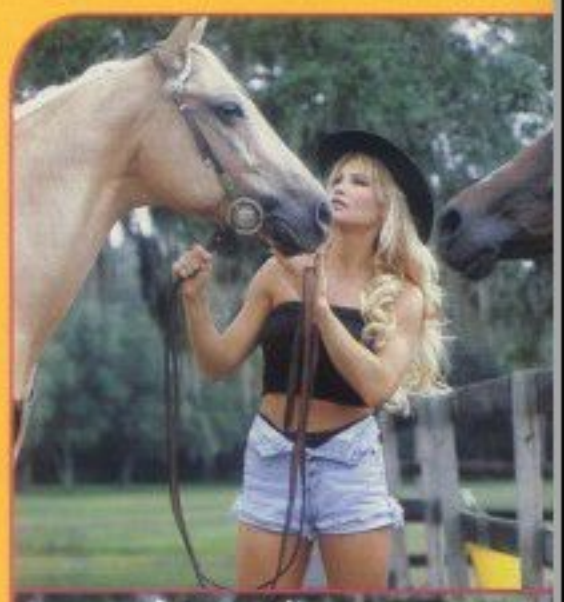
A: Yes, but only because it was so unlike the person I am. My friends and family always knew that I was very athletic and that I wanted to be involved in the entertainment business. But it was a far cry from legitimate acting. However, once they realized what this could do for my career they understood.

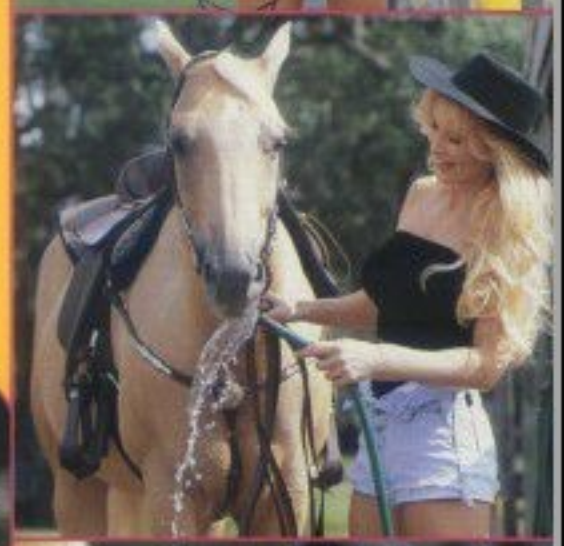
Q: Why are you thinking about boxing?

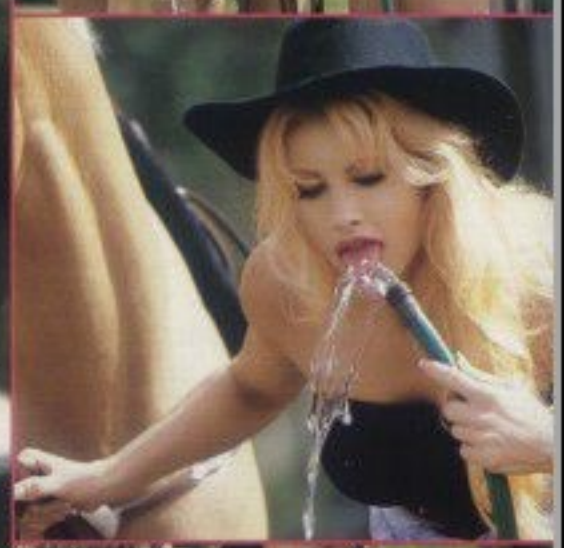
A: My husband used to be a boxer and every time we see his old coach he wants to see my left hook or my left jab to make sure I'm throwing them properly. The other day he and Marc were saying, "Do you know how much money we could make with you as a boxer?" And I think I'd be damn good. But they'd have to pay me an awful lot of money to risk having my nose broken.

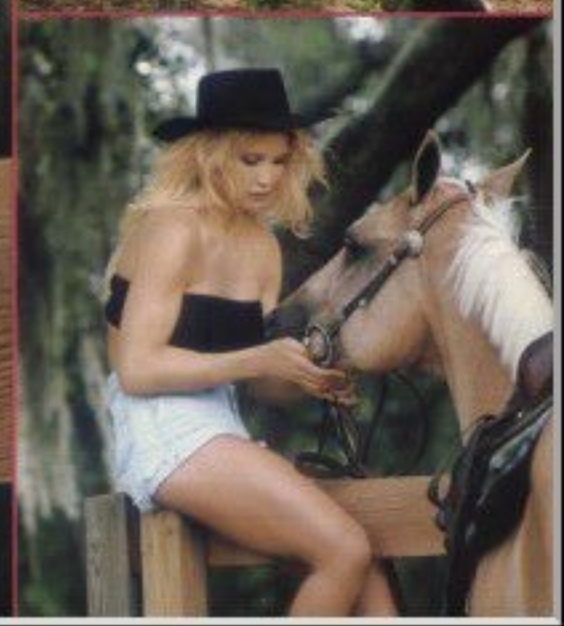
Q: Who are your favorite actors?

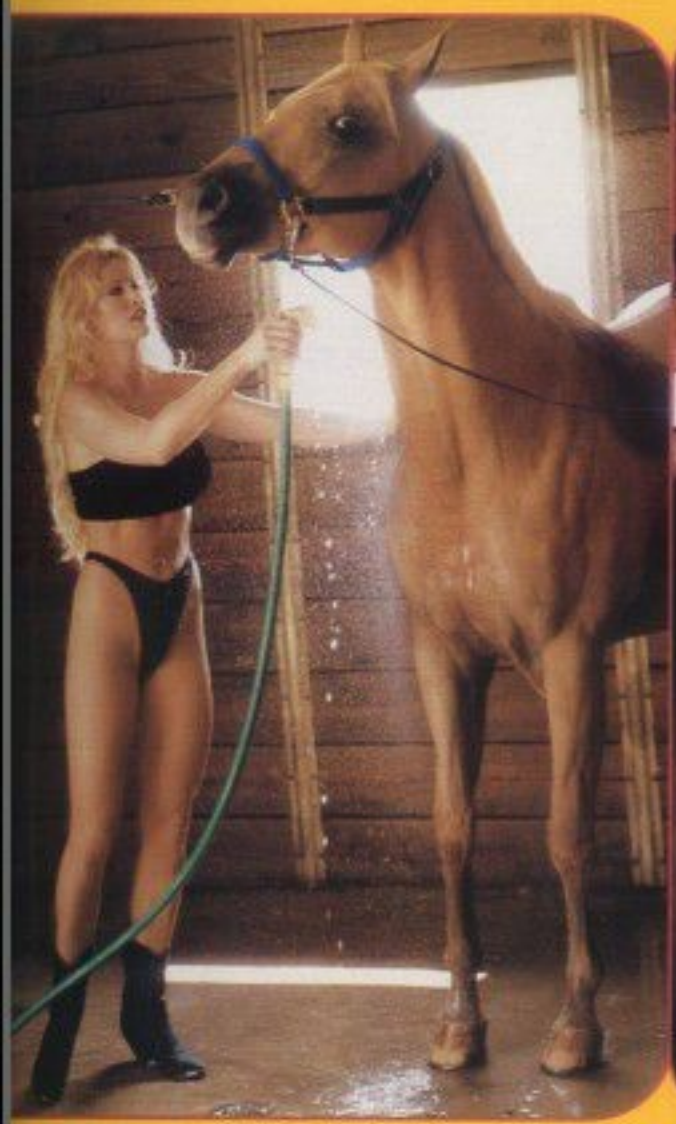
A: I'm very fond of Sharon Stone. She's a tremendous talent and she's extremely

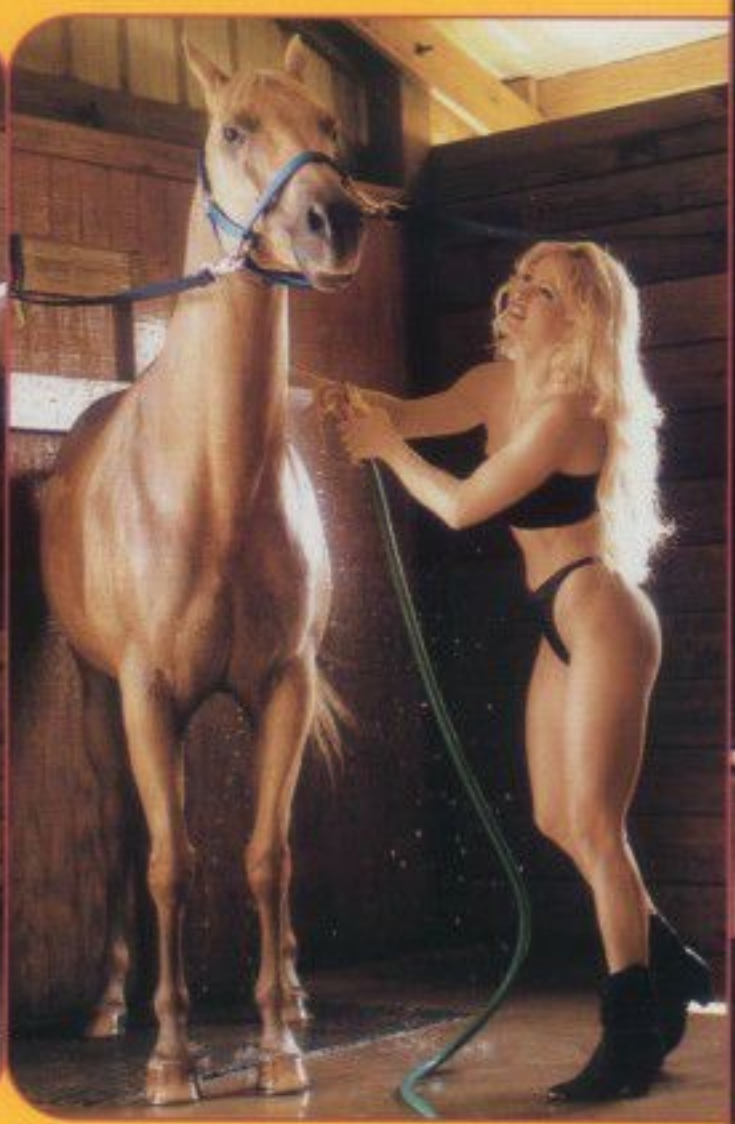












sexy. I also really like Susan Sarandon, Michael Douglas, Nicolas Cage and I'm glad to see John Travolta make such a comeback.

Q: What kind of films do you want to do?

A: I don't want to limit myself to any one stereotyped role, but an action film would be a given. Doing a drama would also be great. I think I have the guts you need to really dig down deep and draw from life's difficult experiences.

Q: What are your favorite films?

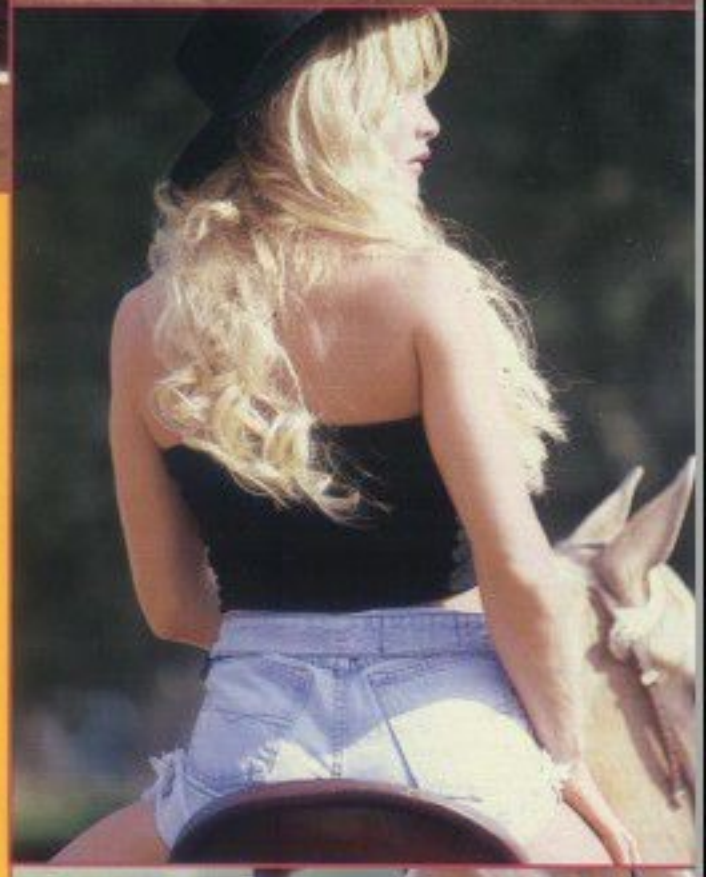
A: My favorite action films would probably be *Total Recall* and *True Lies*. For a tearjerker or a drama, I loved *Legends of the Fall* with Brad Pitt. And *Titanic* was a wonderful epic.

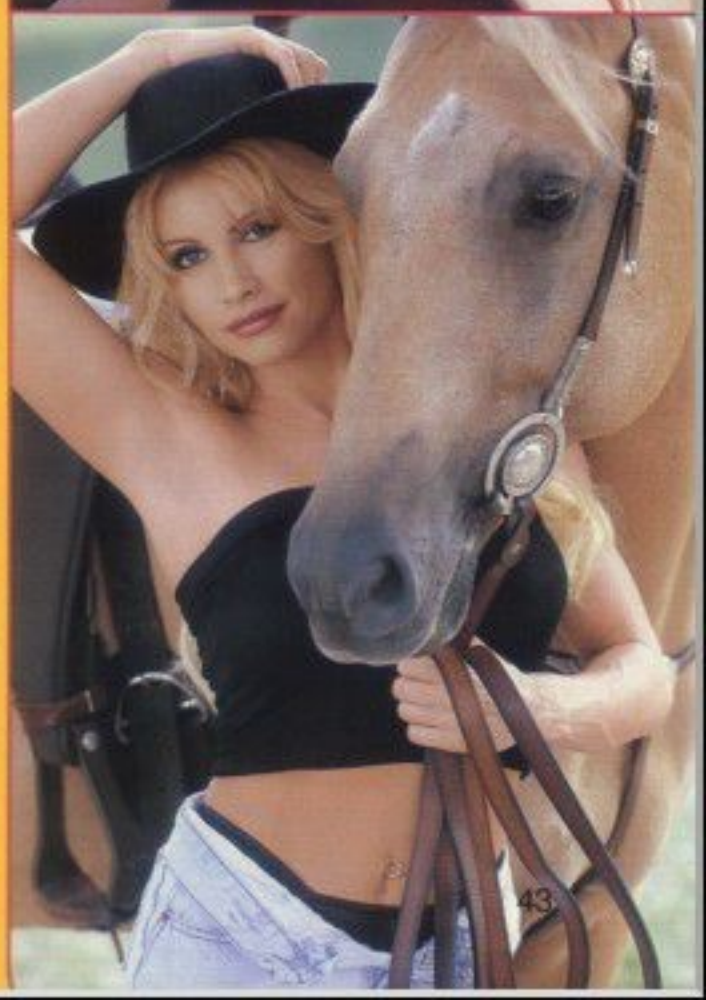
Q: Did you enjoy movies as a kid?

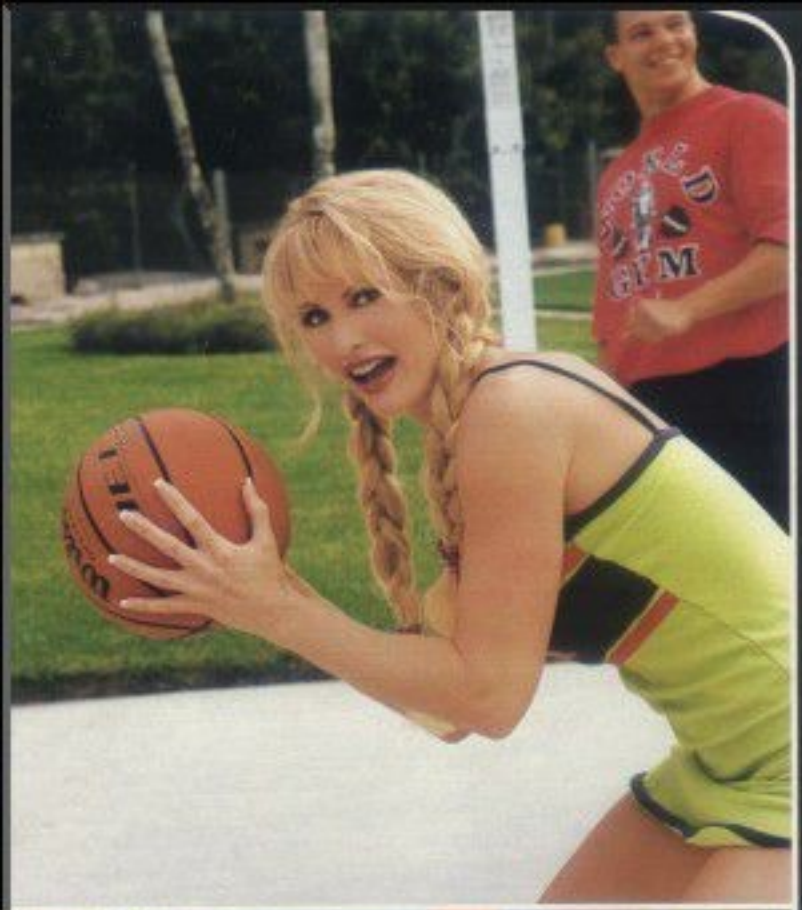
A: Oh yeah. I remember watching *Grease* when it came out. I remember sitting in the theater singing *Hopelessly Devoted to You*, and I must have been really wailing it out because my mother said, "Rena, these people did not pay to hear you sing, so please." But singing is another one of my loves. I would love to sing and I think I'm very talented. So who knows, maybe that might be my next endeavor.

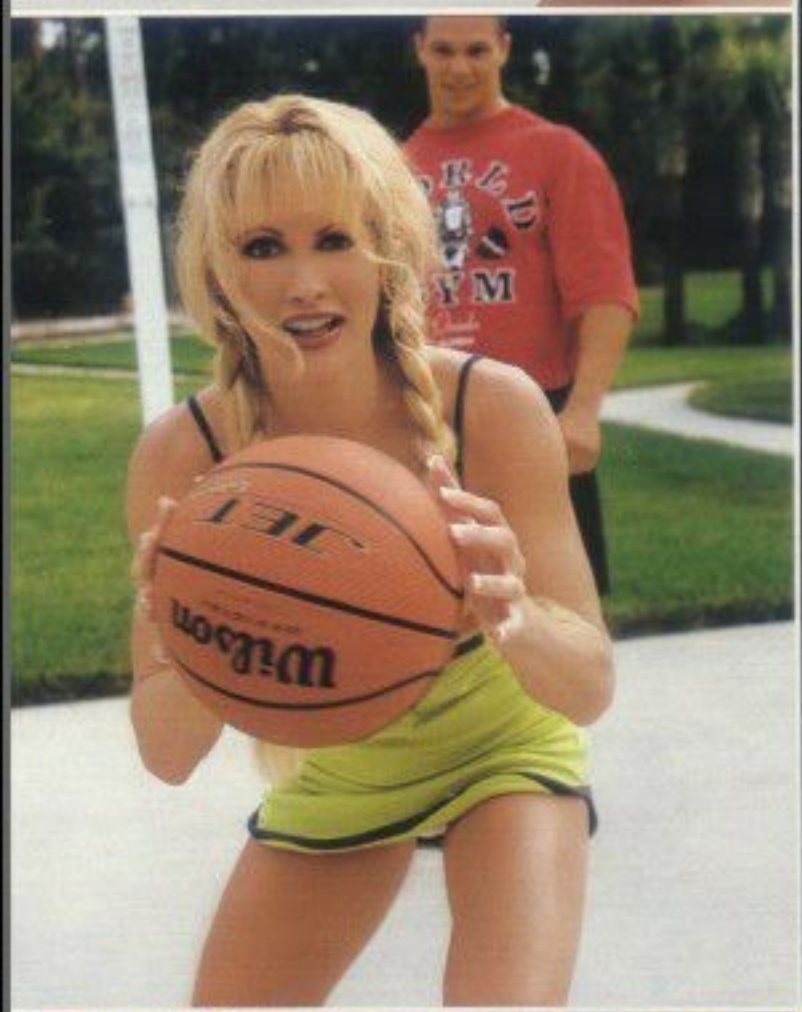
Q: A Rena album perhaps?

A: It's very possible. I love artists like Shania Twain, Jewel, Bonnie Raitt.









Q: What was it like meeting Hef?

A: It was fantastic. I've been to the Mansion three or four times, and Hef is just a great guy. He's a very funny, energetic, normal person and you don't expect that. I was pleasantly surprised with him, and the Mansion is beautiful. The grounds and the pool, it's all fantastic.

Q: Are men intimidated by you?

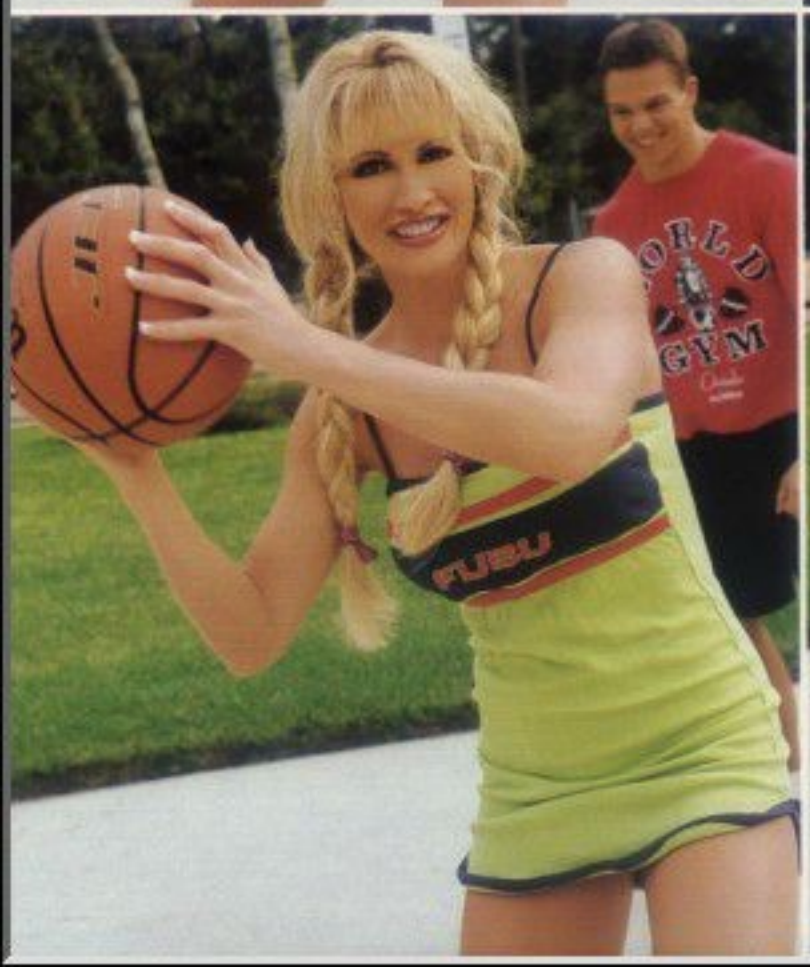
A: I don't think men are intimidated by me, but if they are initially, once they get to know me they realize I'm a normal, down-to-earth, very wholesome person. I will always try to go out of my way to make someone feel as comfortable as possible with me.

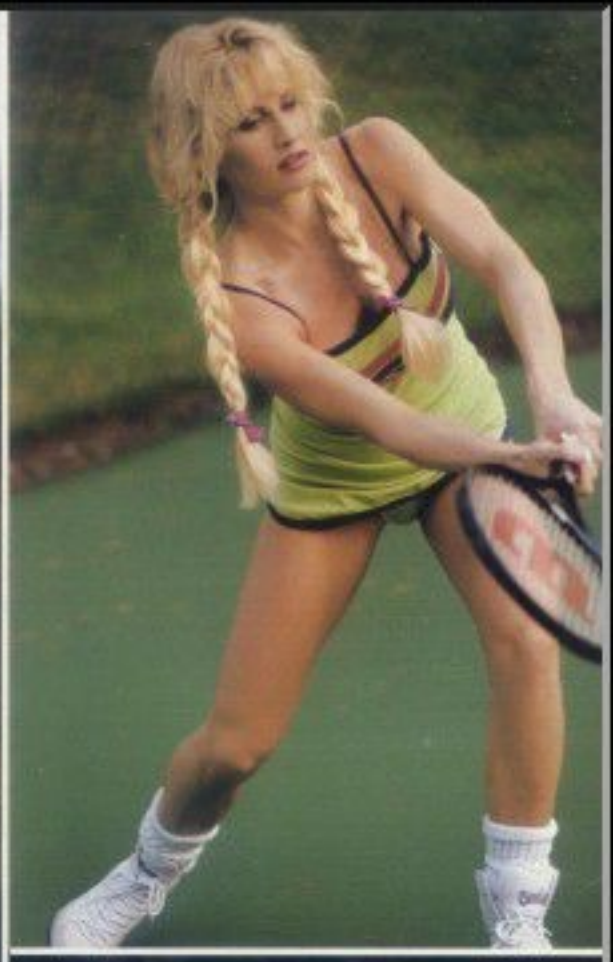
Q: Where will you be spending New Year's Eve 1999?

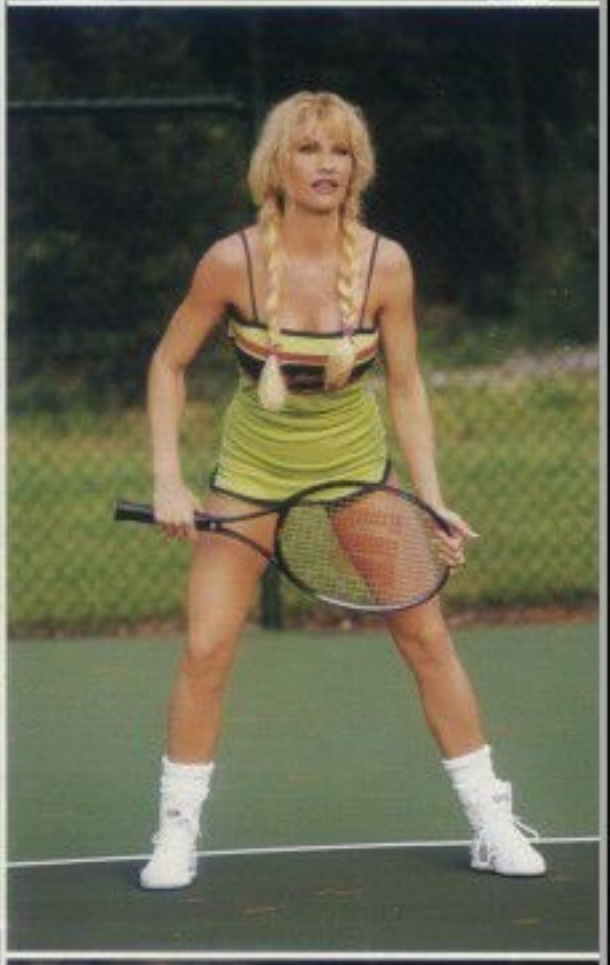
A: KISS is going to have a concert that evening and we've been invited. I'm also working on some possible projects with Gene Simmons, including an action adventure film and a television series. The first thing I wanted to do when I met him was ask him to stick his tongue out, but of course I used the manners my mother taught me and didn't.

Q: Tell us about your workouts in the gym.

A: My training routine is five days a week. Every day a different body part. I work out with a personal trainer who has been







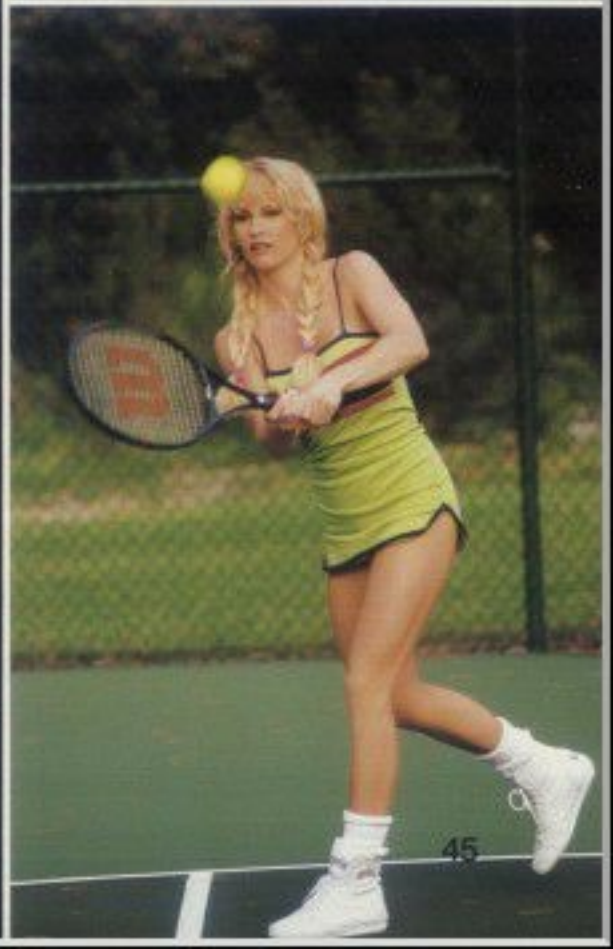
with me for three years and he definitely pushes me and makes me dig down deep. When I first met Marc he called me Gumby because my body was very soft and weak. But in five years I've built a very nice body. I want to be very hard and toned, but I absolutely do not want the bodybuilder look. I want to be feminine. I want to look like a woman.

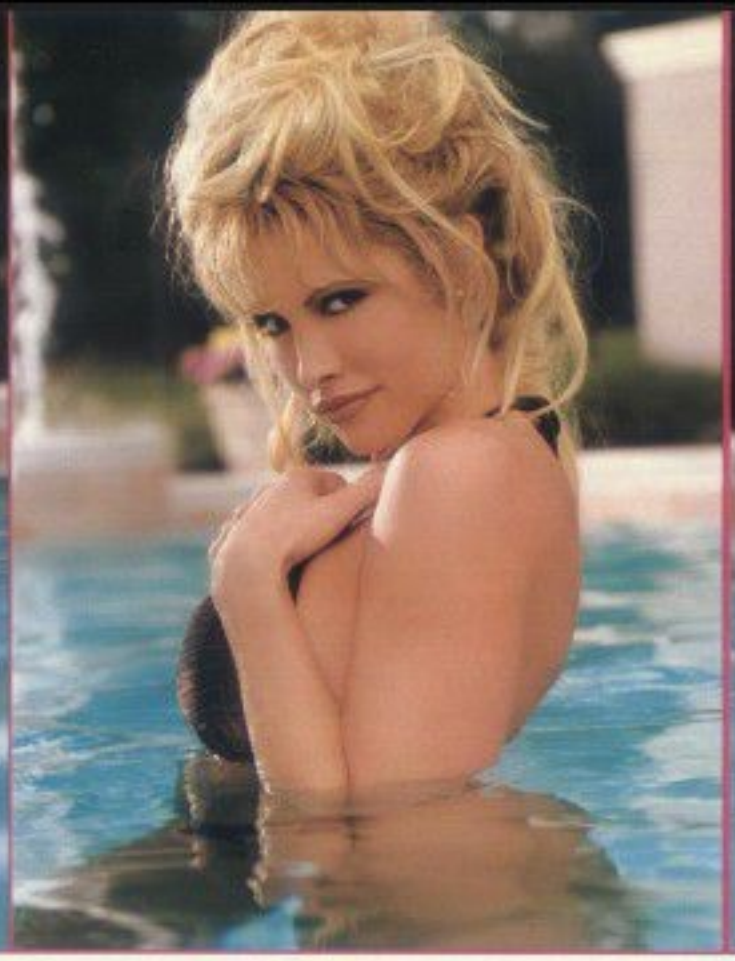
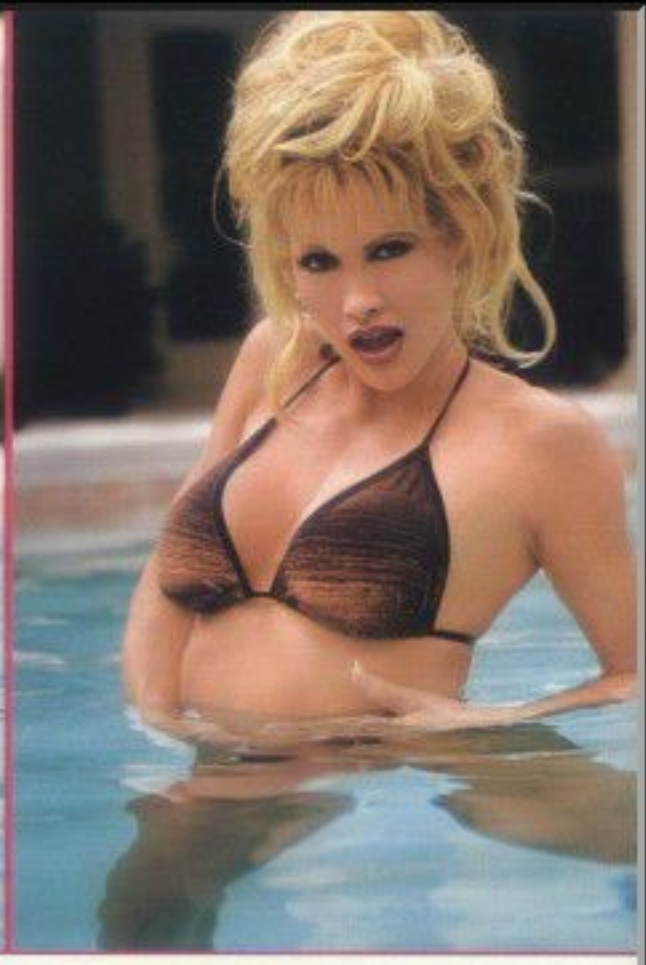
Q: What's your diet like?

A: Breakfast is egg whites and dry whole wheat toast. Sometimes I'll have a little ketchup with my eggs or put jelly on my toast. Lunch is usually steamed chicken with broccoli and plain white rice or a sweet potato or a baked potato. Dinner is usually the same thing. It's no fun because it doesn't give you much variety.

Q: What do you splurge on?

A: I have a huge sweet tooth. I love ice cream, cakes and pies, but my



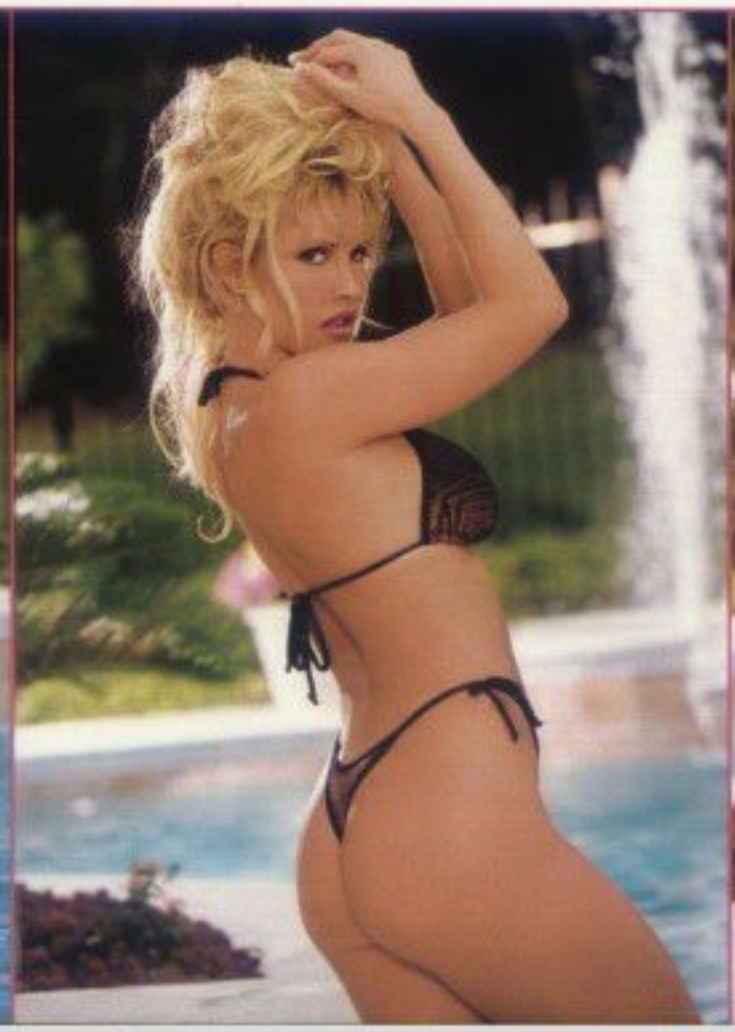
biggest weakness is doughnuts. That was the very first thing I ate after my first PLAYBOY photo shoot.

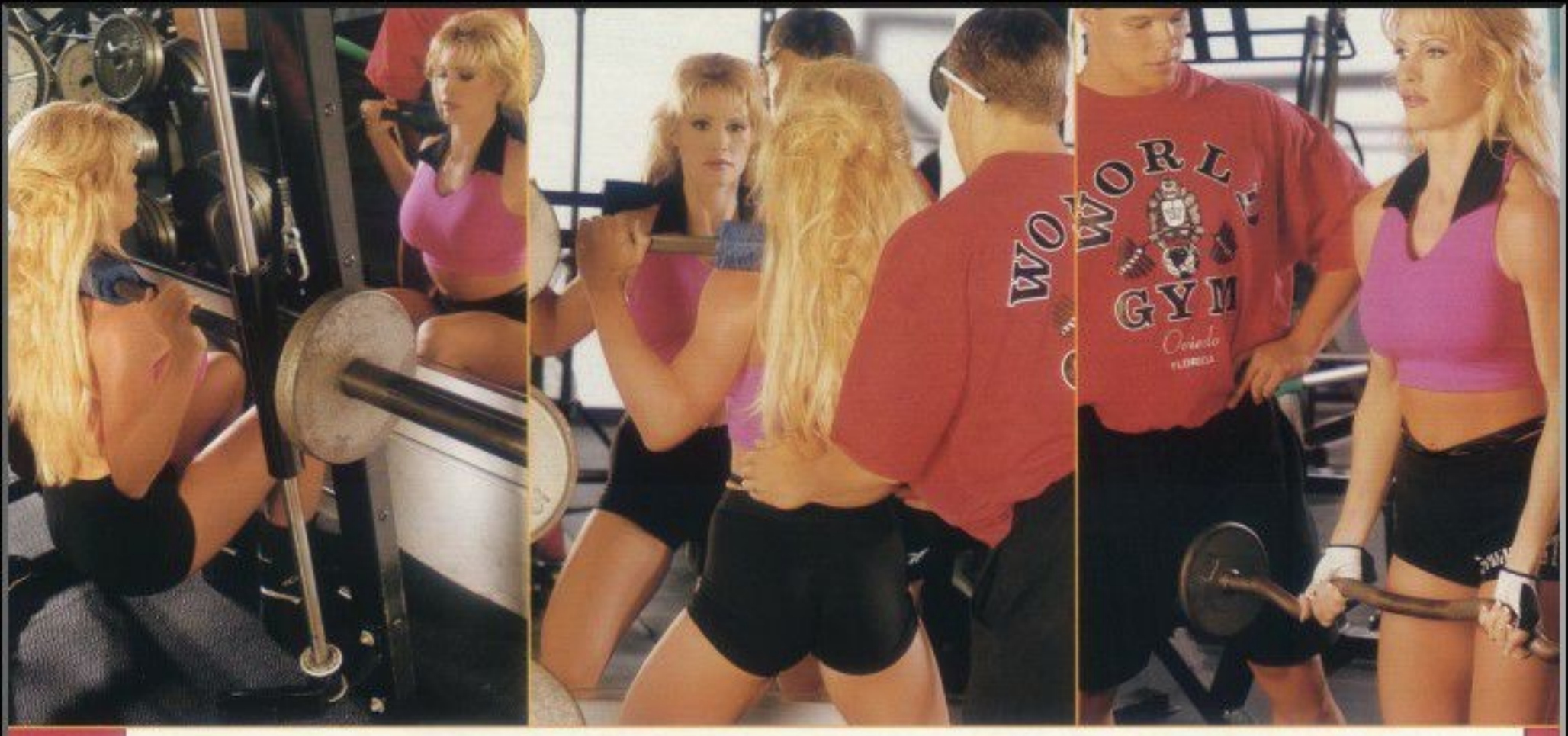
Q: Do you use any wild wrestling moves in the bedroom?

A: In our sex life we like to try a lot of new things all the time. Keeping sex exciting and alive is really important. It's a part of your life that you cannot let go stale. But yeah, we have a few wild moves, things that we have definitely embellished on and improved on over the years. Marc is very romantic and he takes very good care of me. He's very satisfying. But as for incorporating wrestling moves into my sex life, I don't like to be that rough.

Q: Is it cool being a sex symbol?

A: Very cool. It's a great honor, especially when I think about the women who have been in PLAYBOY. As a little girl I would flip through my dad's PLAYBOY and think, these are the most beautiful women I've ever seen. So now it's extremely thrilling and quite an honor, but it's also really hard for me to think of myself like that because I'm very domesticated and very normal. I would love to say that I walk around in lingerie all the time, wear-





ing little fuzzy slippers, but usually I wear normal clothes or sweat pants. But when I need to be sexy, boy can I turn it on.

Q: What do you do for fun?

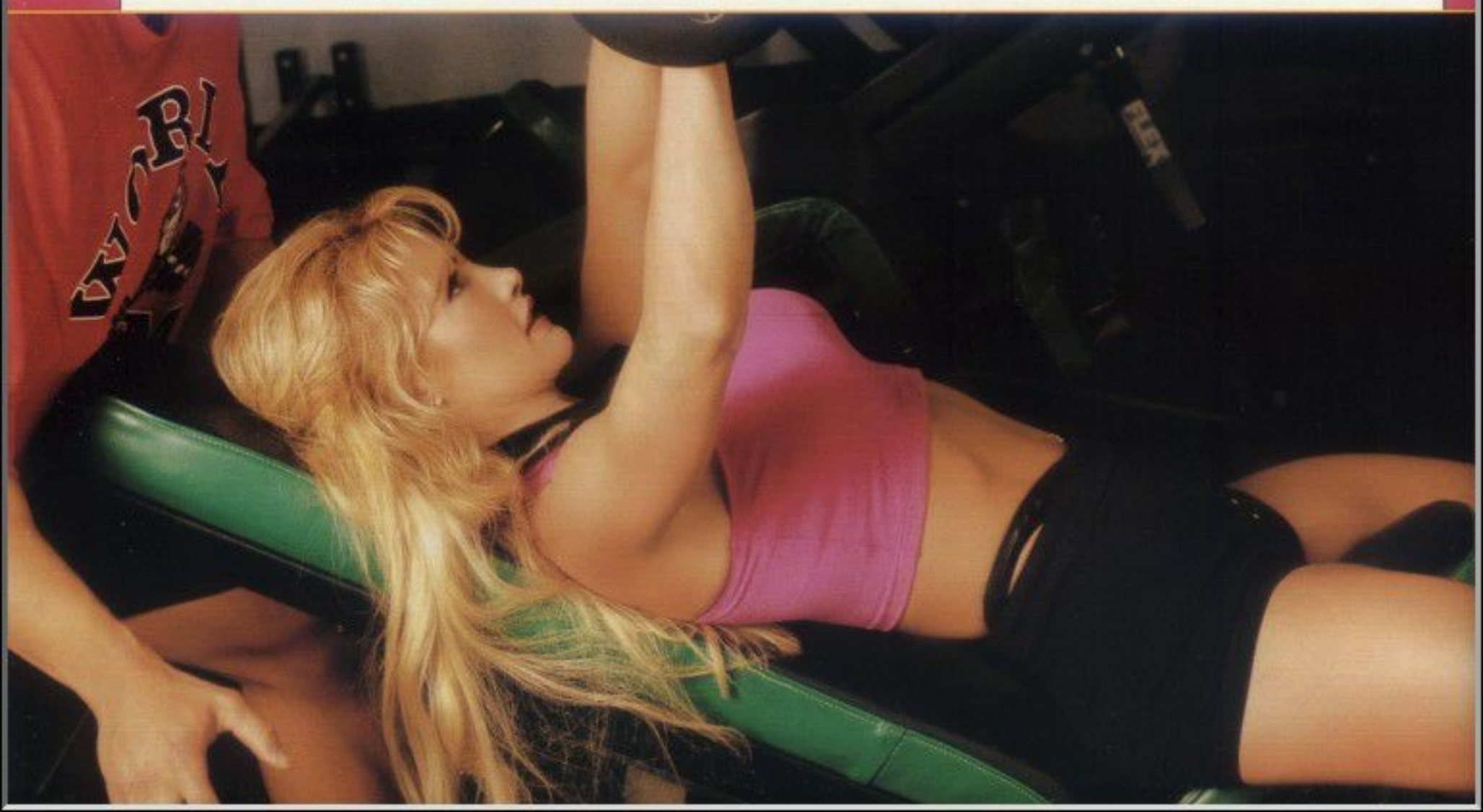
A: I enjoy horseback riding and I love to cook. I also enjoy motorcycle riding and jet-skiing and, of course, working out and pursuing my acting career.

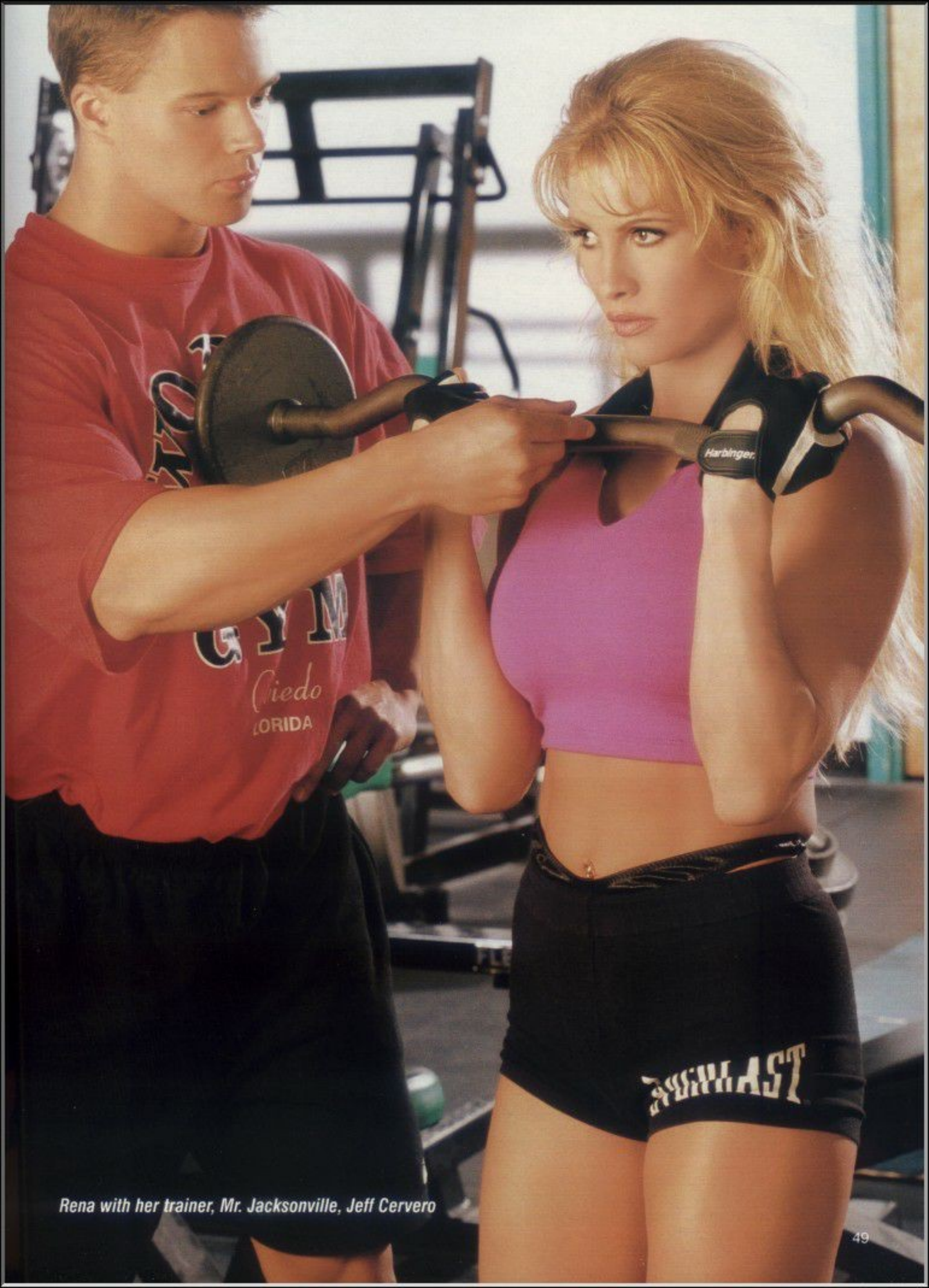
Q: You love horses, so have you ever ridden nude like Lady Godiva?

A: No, but I was thinking about that kind of scene if I ever do another Playboy pictorial. I would love to do a sexy beach shot with horses.

Q: Would you ever consider a return to the wrestling ring?

A: Right now I would say absolutely not, but I never say never. My future looks very exciting. There was a time when I really enjoyed wrestling, but right now I would have to say that I don't see it anywhere in my future.



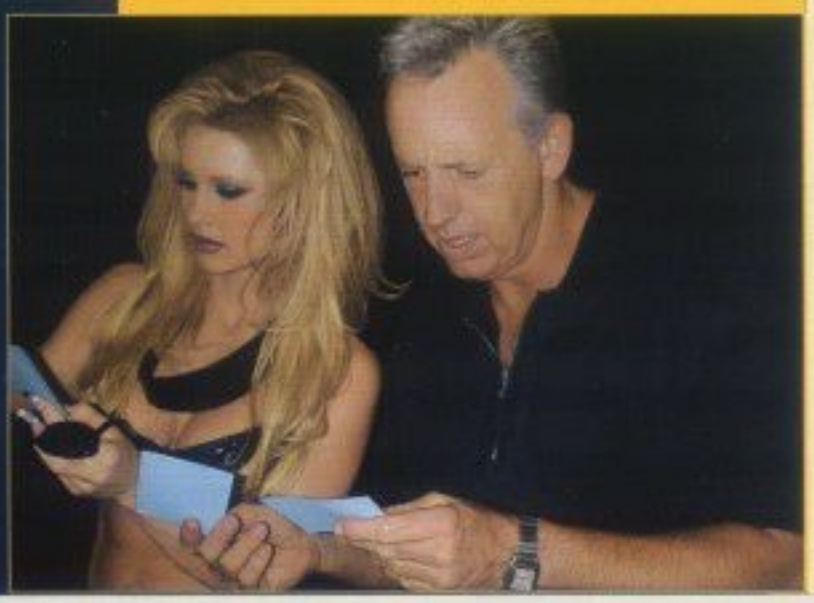


Rena with her trainer, Mr. Jacksonville, Jeff Cervero

RENA'S 2nd SULTRY PLAYBOY PICTORIAL

DEAR DIARY:

Rena takes you behind the scenes of her second Playboy shoot



DAY 1

The alarm went off at 4 A.M. in my bedroom in Florida. It was cold outside. I had packed the night before, so after a shower and some breakfast I was out the door and headed for the airport. The excitement built as I thought about what this photo shoot would be like and how I could outdo my first one. I requested Arny Freytag, who was the photographer on my first PLAYBOY pictorial. He's the most creative photographer I've ever worked with and I couldn't wait to work with him again! I'm going into this shoot with no inhibitions.

After boarding the plane and taking off, I was about to fall asleep when the captain informed us they were having problems with a wing flap and we might have to turn back. Doesn't he know I have a PLAYBOY shoot tomorrow? Just as I was starting to panic, they fixed the problem. On to L.A.!

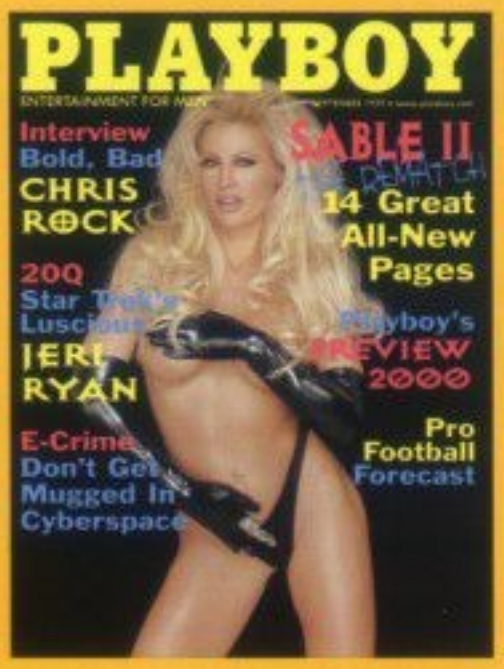
After landing I was whisked by limo to my 2 P.M. hair appointment. After that I did an interview with "Entertainment Tonight" and then had my picture taken and voice recorded for a video game. Next, I headed over to the Anaheim Pond to address a sold-out crowd at a Mighty Ducks game. I told them I wasn't going to wrestle, but I would show them the Grind! Finally, after being up for 23 hours, I was off to my hotel, the beautiful Mondrian. I had to get some sleep because tomorrow was the big day.

DAY 2

I got up at 7 A.M. and took a bath. I felt so relaxed. Time for breakfast. I ordered ten egg whites, whole-wheat toast and fruit. I'm excited, but much more comfortable than before my first PLAYBOY shoot. My driver picked me up at 8:30. When I got there I was met by Arny and we toured the set. My first shoot was bright and soft and innocent, but this time the set was very sexy, dark and mysterious. After having my hair and makeup completed I chose my outfit for the first set of pictures. I have a lot more attitude in this shoot—it's sexy and daring. There's great chemistry on the set. We started with some Polaroids to adjust for lighting and once I saw them I knew the shoot was going to be incredible! My favorite shots today were the ones we did with mirrors. We worked all day and finished up around 8 P.M.

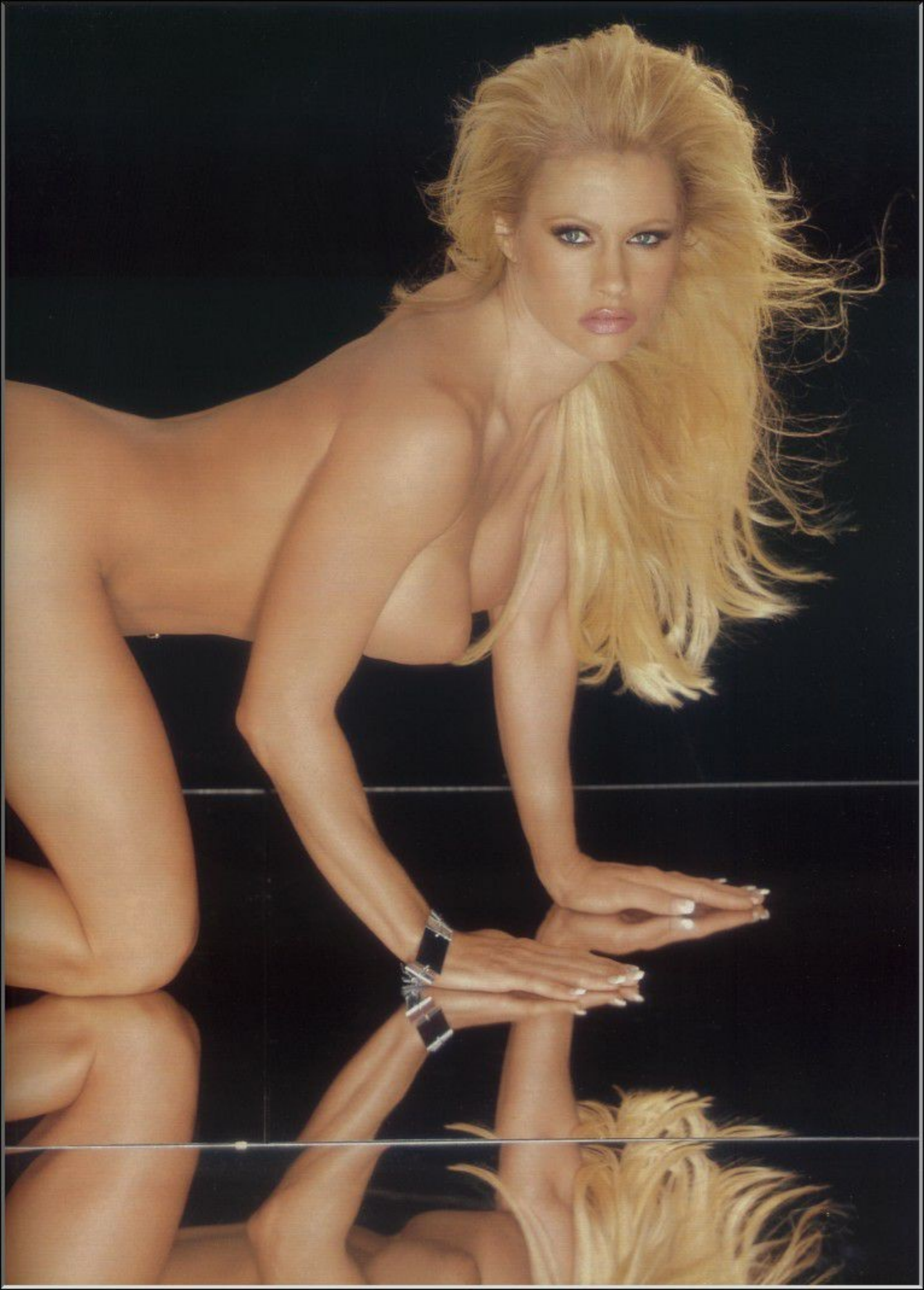
DAY 3

I had a great night's sleep and woke up completely refreshed around 7 A.M. I couldn't wait to get to the set. I had my usual egg whites and toast for breakfast, which cost $90 (eggs in L.A. must be expensive). I was at the studio by 9 A.M. Today I had my hair styled really wild. Then I went to wardrobe and chose my outfit. It was an easy decision because all I wore was a necklace! There was a great bed on the set that had sheets that looked like silver liquid. Just being on the bed made me feel so sexy.



DAY 4

Up again bright and early! Egg whites, toast—you know the routine. Today was the last day of the shoot and at first we concentrated on the cover shot. It was really exciting knowing I was going to be on the cover again. After about two hours we broke for lunch. Next I posed in a really cool clear plastic bubble chair which they wetted down. I was dressed in funky plastic tubing and I was slipping and sliding all over the chair. We were all laughing and it was a blast. At the end of the day we took some group shots with the crew. It was hard to say goodbye because I didn't know when I would see them all again. Hopefully there will be a round three with me and PLAYBOY. When the shoot was over I jumped in the limo, went back to the hotel, grabbed my bags and I was off to the airport. Finally I was going home for a little rest. I had been on the road for two weeks and I really needed to relax. But first, now that the shoot was over, I had to splurge. It was really late when I got to the airport, but I did find one place open that had some doughnuts, which are my absolute favorite pig out food. They were a bit stale, but they still tasted sooo good.



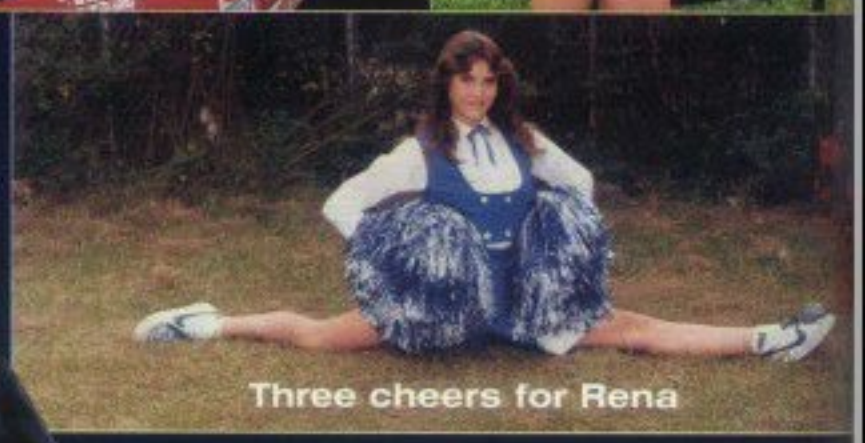
RETRO RENA

What a doll

Ring around the collar

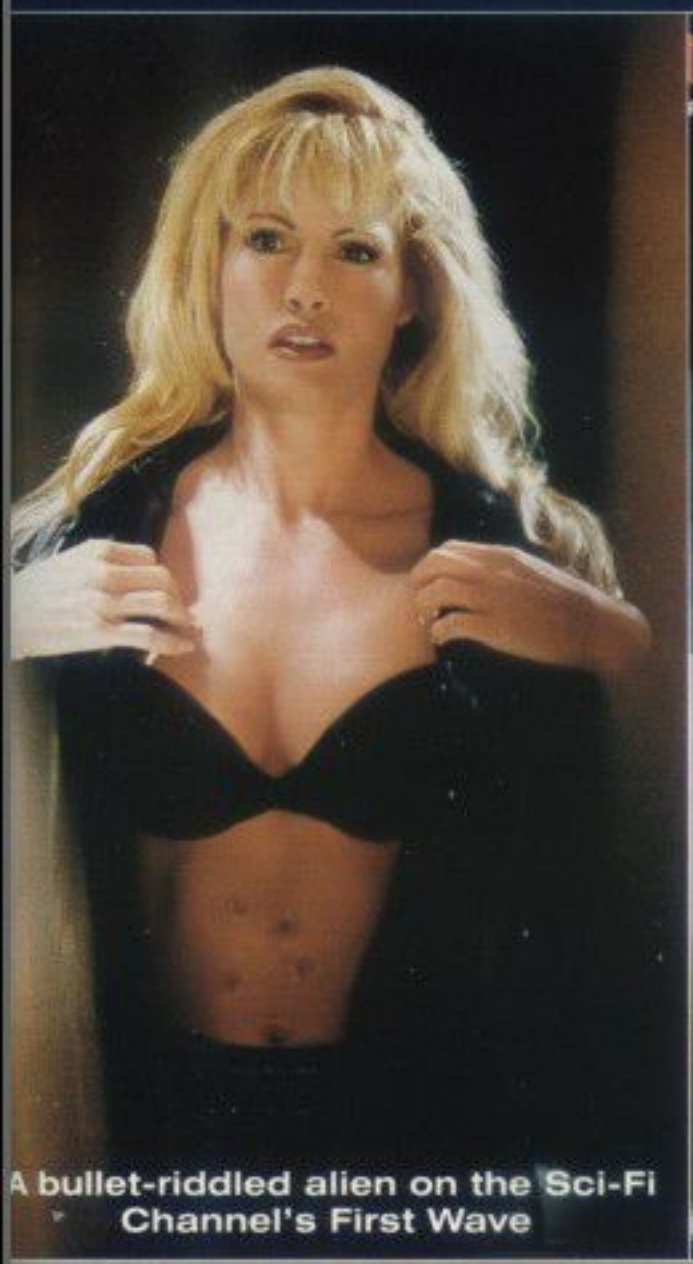
Hood ornament

Double your pleasure

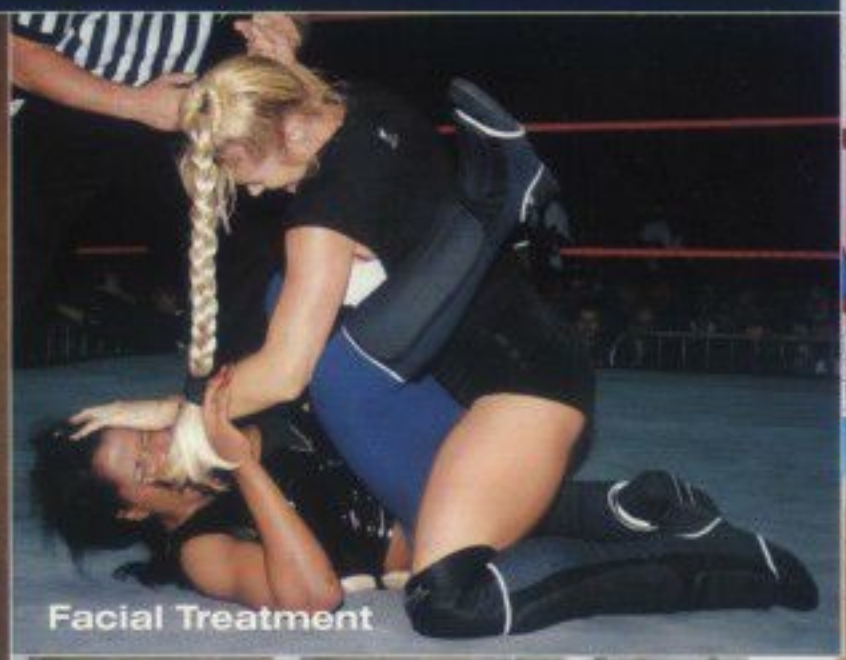


Three cheers for Rena

Scenes from a life

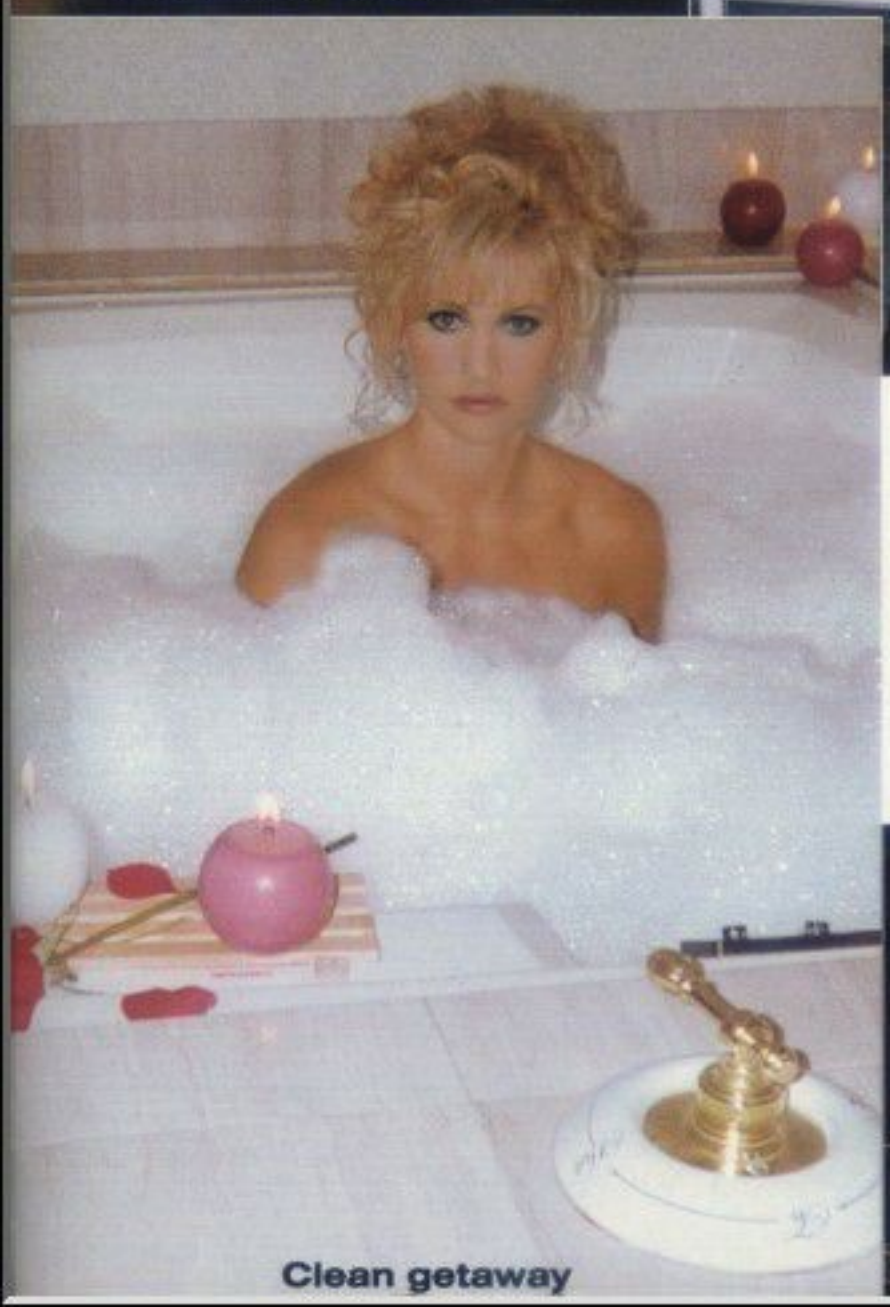


A bullet-riddled alien on the Sci-Fi Channel's First Wave



Facial Treatment

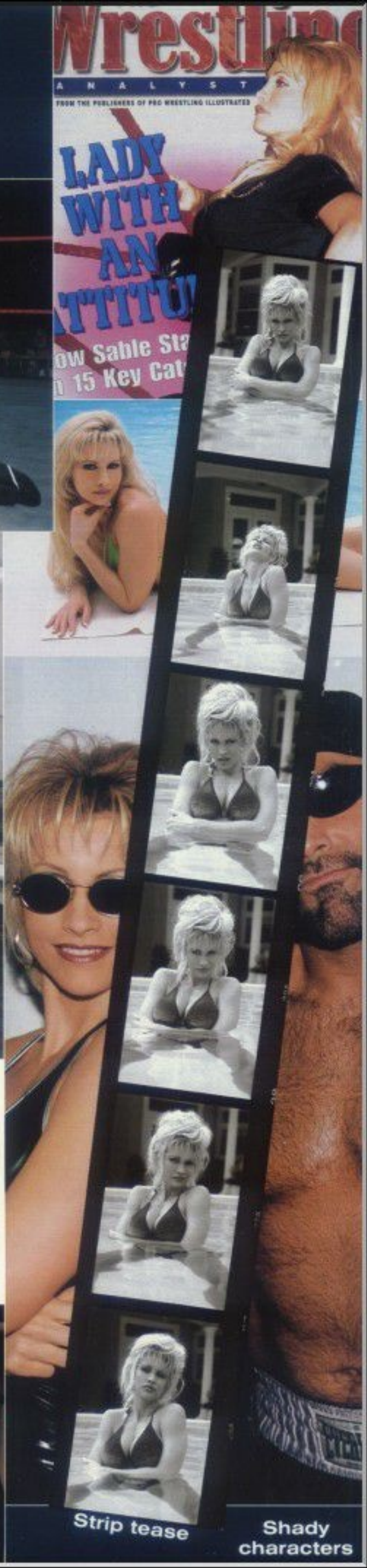
Strike a pose



Clean getaway

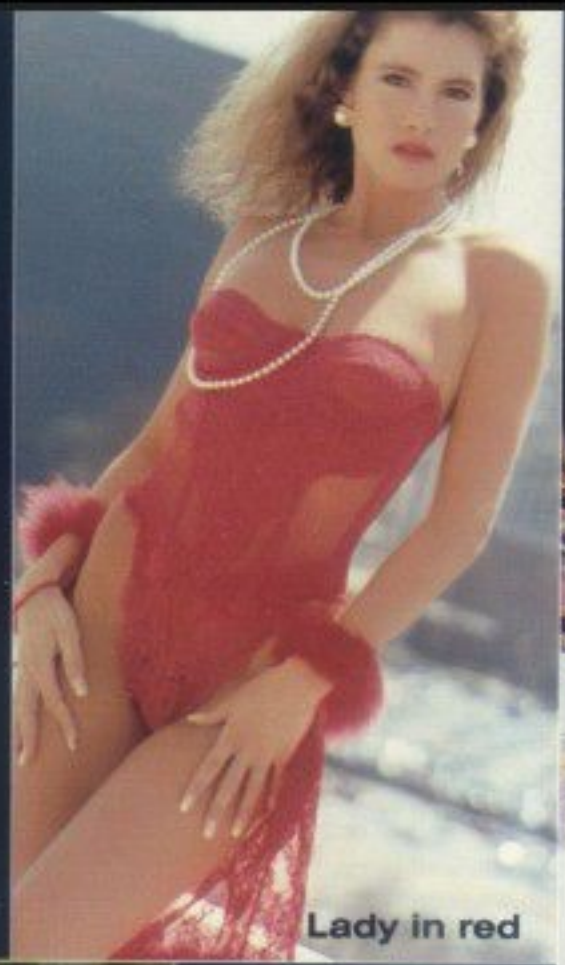
Fling that thing

Tonight's guest



Strip tease

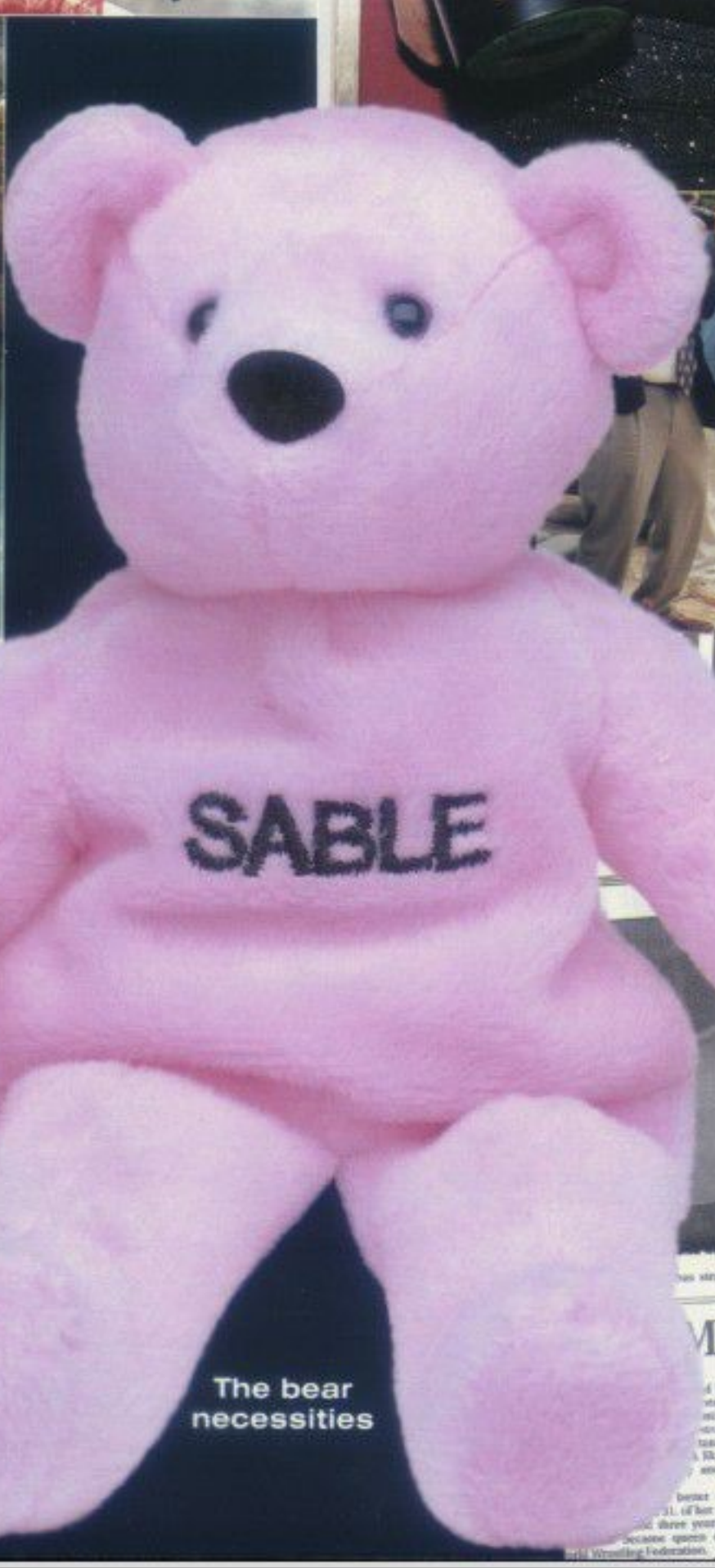
Shady characters



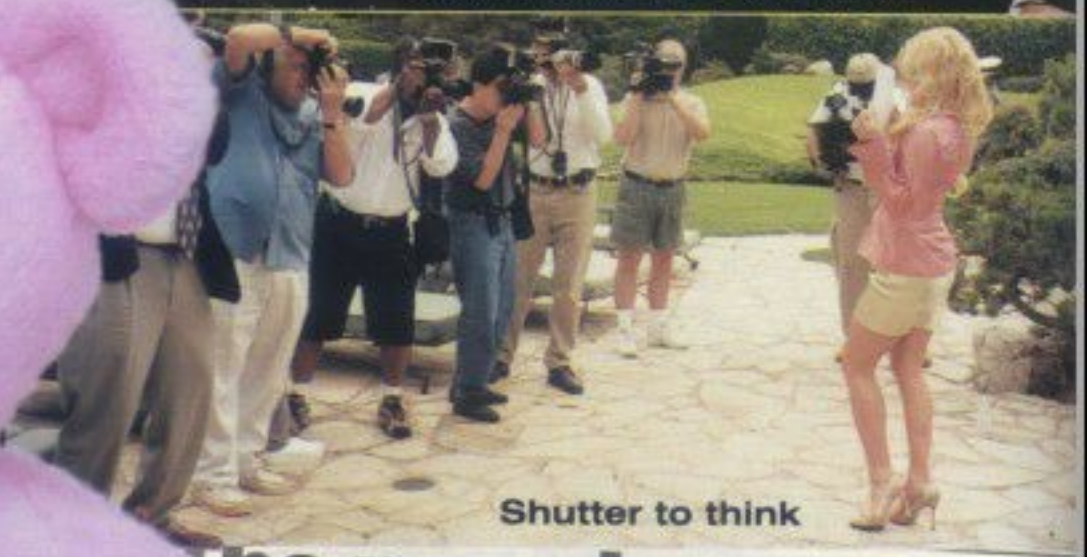
Lady in red

Takin' home the hardware

By the Grotto



The bear necessities



Shutter to think

he rare ring of truth

She attained WWF superstardom as Sable but now, using her n name, Rena Mero has bigger plans for life after wrestling

na Mero, a.k.a. Sable, is out working her Playboy spread

feature films, a movie of the week, and working with Gene Simmons

FORMER WWF WRESTLER

Mero lays a body slam on the WWF

JAN WONG

LUNCH WITH SABLE

With her fave lensman and fave hat

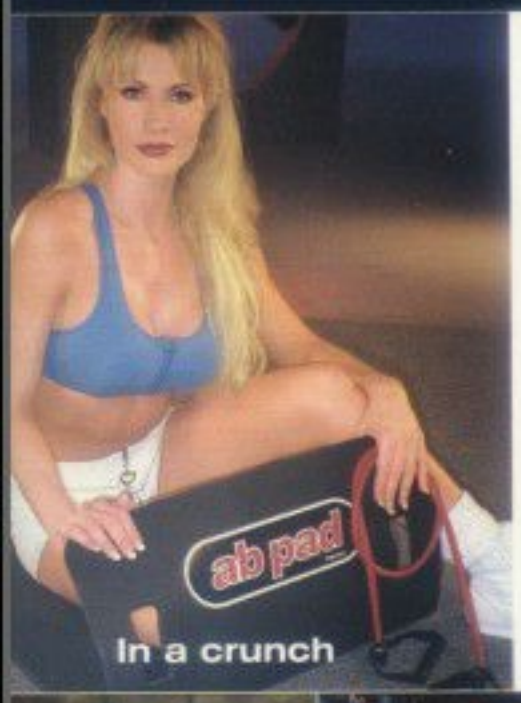
Pillow talk

Footsy with Florida talk radio diva Savannah

A Montana-sized fan

Black is beautiful

Tie one on
A girl with the Boyz
Absolutely Marvelous
Sable
Corner pocket
Gettin' cheeky with HMH
Blonde ambition
Pony up
Fine feathered friend
Tree-
mendous
With the Playboys
Head first

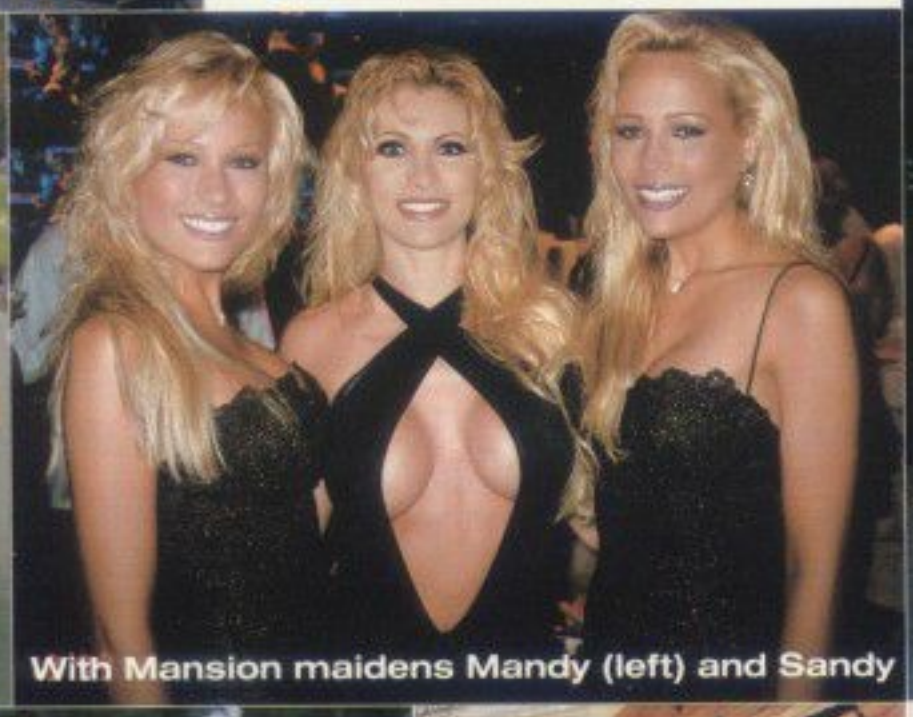


In a crunch

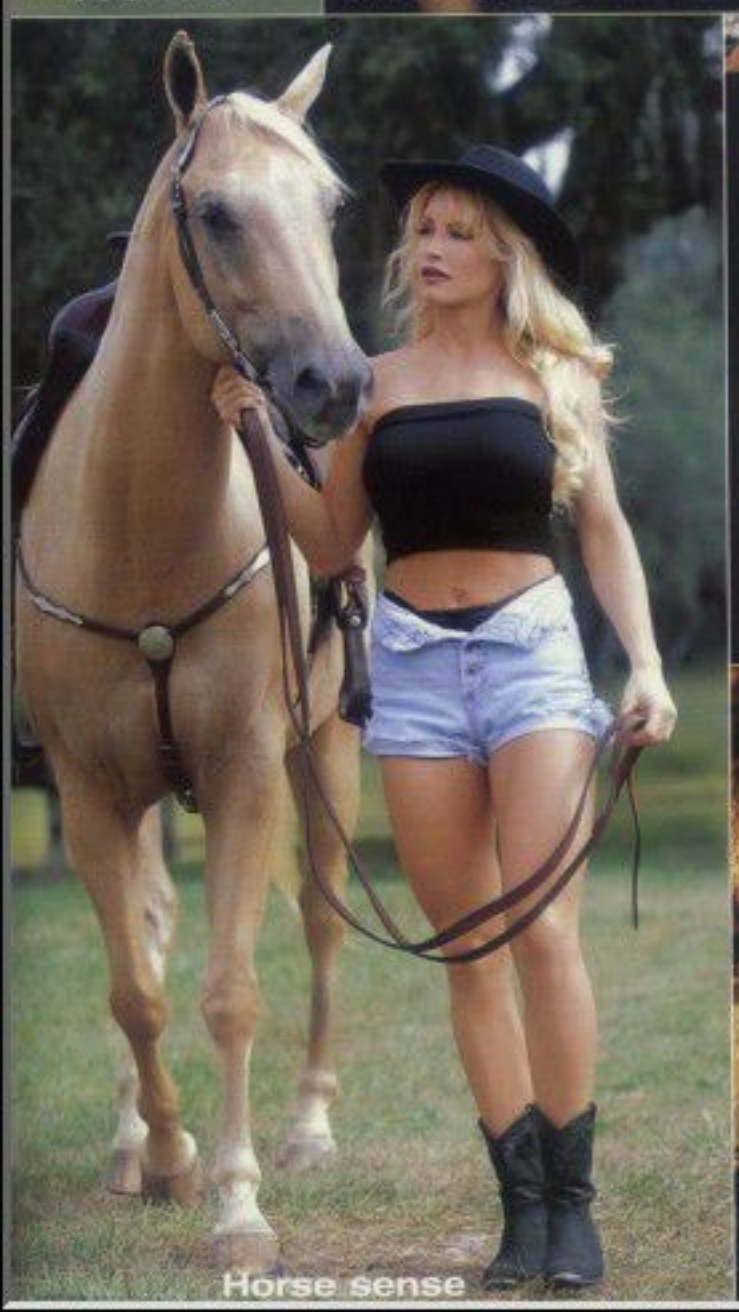
Total head case

Sign me up

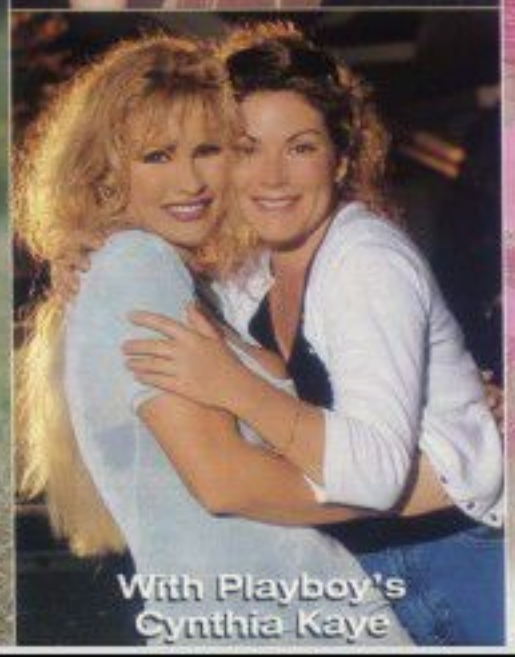
Puppy love

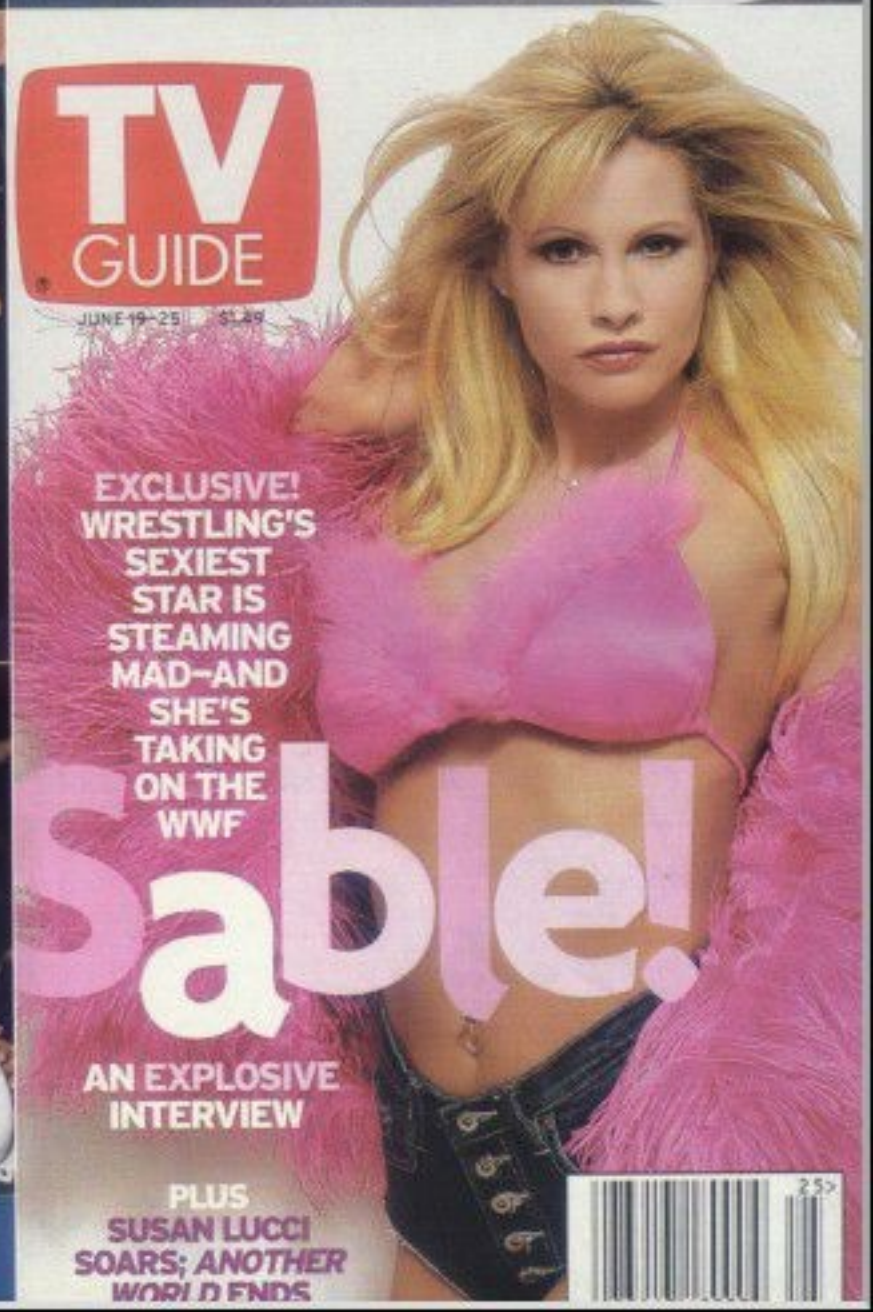

With Mansion maidens Mandy (left) and Sandy

King and Queen


Horse sense

Hanger-on


With Playboy's Cynthia Kaye



THE ULTIMATE COLLECTIBLE FOR EVERY RENA MERO FAN

UNPUBLISHED NUDES FROM BOTH PLAYBOY PICTORIALS

HOT NUDE POSTER INSIDE!!!